

## Waiting to See the Lord

### Introduction

- Believers in the OT era had been waiting for centuries to see the promised Messiah.
- Mary & Joseph were surprised to learn that they would see the promised Messiah as His parents.
- Heb. 11:1. The Holy Spirit kept hope & anticipation vibrant in their hearts just as He does in ours.

### I. Jesus is **Brought** by His Parents (2:22-24)

#### A. The child's consecration

*The purpose: "to present" or consecrate Jesus for the Lord's service. All 1<sup>st</sup> born creatures belonged to God – either sacrificed or redeemed with money (Num. 18:15-16). Jesus was consecrated for service rather than redeemed with money.*

#### B. The mother's purification

*After the birth of a son there were 7 days of uncleanness & 33 days for purification (Lev. 12:1-8). The ceremony involved sacrificing an animal at the temple – Joseph & Mary were poor. Poor people sacrificed 2 turtledoves or pigeons since they did not have & couldn't afford a lamb.*

**Joseph & Mary loved God & obeyed His law (1Jn. 5:3; Gal. 4:4).**

### II. Jesus is **Revealed** to Simeon (2:25-35)

#### A. The Holy Spirit controlled Simeon (v. 25-27)

*The HS deals with different people in different ways – filled, quench, etc. The HS had been working in Simeon – granting grace to **wait** for God's Deliverer, **revealing longevity** of life & **timing** for him to act. God never leaves to the plan of redemption to chance; He chooses, reveals, convicts, leads...*

#### B. The Holy Spirit enabled Simeon (v. 28-35)

*The HS gives power. The HS enabled Simeon to **take** hold of God's Deliverer, to **bless** God, **prophesy** the truth about Jesus & **bless** Mary & Joseph. The HS prepared Simeon to die in **peace** with God (as he had lived). *No one is ready to die until you have seen & believed Jesus in your heart. Only then are you ready to both live & die (Phil. 1:21).**

This 40 day old infant is ordained/appointed by God to save Jews & Gentiles; He is appointed for the salvation of some & judgment of others; and Mary will experience grief & anguish in her heart because of the awful ways that Jesus will suffer... God is revealing the Truth about **this child** & all who will be eternally affected by Him!

### III. Jesus is **Praised** by Anna (2:36-38)

#### A. Jesus is worthy of sacrifice (v. 36-37)

*Anna married & became a widow at a young age (<30 yrs. old); she had other options – remarriage, rejoin family, etc. But she chose to fully devote her youth, talents & skills to serve the Lord in the place of worship. **Just one look made all the sacrifice worth while; just being in His presence...***

#### B. Jesus is worthy of praise (v. 38)

*As a prophetess, Anna was also chosen & used by the Holy Spirit to speak for God. Anna was a mouthpiece for God in praise & proclamation.*