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Jesus Presented in the Temple

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **December 29, 2013**

Luke 2:25-38

Introduction: Our Lord Jesus, being made of a woman, was made under the law, Galatians 4:4. He was not only, as the son of a daughter of Adam, made under the law of nature, but as the **son** of a **daughter** of **Abraham** was **made** under the **law of Moses**; he put his neck under that yoke, though it was a heavy yoke, and a shadow of good things to come. Though its institutions were beggarly elements, and rudiments of this world, as the apostle calls them, Christ submitted to it, that he might with the **better grace** cancel it, and set it aside for us. (Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible* classic.studylight.org/com/mhc)

Luke 2:21 ...when **eight** days were accomplished for the **circumcising** of the **child**, his name was called **Jesus**, which was so **named** of the **angel** before he was conceived in the womb.

Thought 1. The people did this in obedience to the Law God gave through Moses. But, let's look back to when God first ordained circumcision. He gave it first to Abraham.

Genesis 17:10-14, This is my **COVENANT**, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy **SEED** after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall **circumcise** (**destroy** [do away with, get rid of]) the **FLESH** of your **foreskin**; And it shall be a token of the **COVENANT** betwixt ME and YOU. And he that is **eight days** old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is BORN in the house, or BOUGHT with money of any stranger, which is NOT of thy seed. He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my **COVENANT** shall be IN your flesh for an **everlasting COVENANT**.

And the uncircumcised man child whose **FLESH** of his **foreskin** is NOT circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my **COVENANT**.

Covenant defined 1285, (in the sense of cutting); a compact (an agreement; a contract between parties) **(because made by passing between pieces of flesh).**

Thought 2. What God was pointing to through the circumcision of the flesh was the circumcision of the heart, IN the spirit, that would take place when people believe on Jesus as the Christ: trusting their spiritual well-being to him. At the time a person believes on him, their FLESH (their old nature from Satan: called human nature) is CUT away FROM their heart, IN their SPIRIT by the Holy Spirit.

Moreover, as in removing ALL of the foreskin, he takes away ALL of our old nature! This means we do not have TWO natures, only the nature of Yahweh: our new Father.

Romans 2:28-29, For he is **not** a **Jew**, which is one outwardly; neither is that CIRCUMCISION, which is outward in the **flesh**: But he is a Jew, which is one

inwardly; and **circumcision** is that of the heart, **IN** the **SPIRIT**, and **not** in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of **God**.

Spirit defined 4151, pneuma **Pronounced: pnyoo'-mah: VITAL** (of life) **principle**(source), **spirit** [the intelligent, immaterial {not made of matter} and **IMMORTAL** {able to last forever} part of man].

Thought 3. Another definition of "spirit" is breath [the air inhaled and exhaled in respiration], but breath does not fit the meaning intended.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18, Therefore if any man be **IN** Christ, he is a **new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, **all** things are become new. And **ALL** things **are** **OF God**, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation...

Luke 2:22-24, And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to **present him** to the **Lord**; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every **male** that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a **sacrifice** according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A **pair** of turtledoves, or **two** young pigeons.

NOTE: The circumcision and purification ceremonies were necessary as a reminder that we are all born in sin (Psalm 51:5). Jesus *could* have been excused because He was **not** born in sin. Yet, we see Him even as a baby, identifying with sinners, as He did at His baptism and on the cross.

- i. The correct reading of Luke 2:22 is "now when the days of **their purification** . . . were completed." Jesus was identified with sinners even as a baby
- ii. "Let us now speak first of the purification. Luke makes it apply both to Mary and to Christ: for the pronoun *of them*, can have no reference whatever to Joseph." (Calvin)
- c. **A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons:** Also, their offering (two birds, not a lamb) shows that Joseph and Mary were not wealthy. Leviticus 12:8 says the offering after childbirth was to be a bird and a **lamb**, but if the family could not afford to sacrifice a lamb, they could present **two birds**.
- d. This no doubt happened before the **wise men** came from the east (Matthew 2:1-12). Mary and Joseph would not have returned to Jerusalem after being warned by the angel (Matt. 2:13), and they would not have offered only two birds after receiving the **rich gifts** from the wise men (Matthew 2:11).
 - i. We see that Mary and Joseph were poor here, but the Lord provided their needs abundantly through the gifts of the wise men. **God always provides!**
(Source: David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible classic.studylight.org/com/guz/)

Luke 2:25 ...*behold*, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**; and the same man was **just** and **DEVOUT**, waiting for the **consolation** of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

Devout defined 2126, circumspect (religiously, pious [godly; reverencing and honoring the Supreme Being in heart and in the practice of the duties he has enjoined {commanded}]).

NOTE: Simeon ... This man has been identified as the son of the famous Hillel, father of Gamaliel, and president of the Sanhedrin. Spence noted that the Mishna (part of the Talmud), which preserved the record of sayings of great rabbis, has no word from Simeon, "perhaps owing to the hatred incurred because of his belief in Jesus of Nazareth." (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Luke 2:26, And it was **revealed** unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should **not** see **death**, before he had **seen** the Lord's **Christ (anointed, Messiah)**.

Thought 1. This privilege from the Lord was actually granted to Simeon because of the life he lived obeying the Lord. There are prophecies from the Lord that because of favor, he grants certain ones to be WITNESSES of what he has said coming to past.

Proverbs 3:1-4, My son, forget not my **law**; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and **long life**, and **peace**, shall they **add** to thee. Let not **mercy** and **truth** forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find **favour (kindness, grace)** and good **understanding** in the sight of God and man.

Luke 2:27, And he **came** by the **Spirit** into the temple: and when the **parents** brought in the child **Jesus**, to do for him after the custom of the **law**...

Thought 1. The Lord had him be there at the right time to accomplish his will.

Proverbs 16:9, A man's heart deviseth his **way**: but the Lord **directeth** his **steps**.

Luke 2:28-32, Then took he him up in his **arms**, and blessed God, and **said**, Lord, now **lettest** thou thy servant **depart** in **peace**, according to thy **word**: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of **all** people; A **light** to **lighten** the **Gentiles**, and the **glory** of thy people **Israel**.

NOTE: This passage carries the imagery of a bondservant requesting of his master that he might be dismissed. Simeon recognized that in the giving of Christ, God had indeed accomplished the **salvation** of men inclusive of **the Gentiles**. That Jesus was indeed the glory of Israel is fully true; but the Israel of this promise is far more extensive than secular or national Israel, and encompasses the **redeemed** of all ages.

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

Thought 1. Long LIFE is the first of many PROMISES of God! So, tomorrow is PROMISED.

Ephesians 6:1-3, Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the FIRST commandment with **PROMISE**); That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest **live long** on the earth. (See Exodus 20:12)

Psalms 91:14-16, Because he hath **set** his **LOVE** upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I WILL set him on high, because he hath known my **name (authority, character)**. He shall call upon me, and I WILL answer him: I WILL be with him in trouble; I WILL deliver him, and honour him.

With **long life** will I **SATISFY him**, and **shew** him my **salvation**.

Luke 2:33-38, And Joseph and his mother **marvelled** at those things which were **spoken** of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the **fall (crash [destruction of life])** and **rising again (resurrection from death)** of many in Israel; and for a **sign** which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own SOUL also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

And there was one **Anna**, a **prophetess**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: **she** was of a great age, and had lived with an husband **seven** years from her **virginity**; And she was a widow of about **fourscore** and **four** years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant **GAVE thanks likewise** unto the Lord, and **SPAKE** of him to all them that **looked** for **redemption** in Jerusalem.

NOTE: **Departed not from the temple ...** can hardly mean that she resided in it, but that she had never forsaken temple duties, despite her phenomenal age. Matthew Henry said: It is pleasant to see aged Christians not weary of well-doing; but taking more and more pleasure in it, and seeing more and more need of it, till they come to heaven. Those who are **diligent** and **faithful** in improving their **light** and means, shall have further discoveries.

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)