

Deliverance

Luke 2:21-40

I. Scripture reading: Luke 2:21-40

II. Deliverance: A single child was delivered so that we might all be delivered. His delivery would lead to our total deliverance. This is the power of the Christmas narrative. It is not ultimately about a birth, but the reality of God's own self taking on our nature so that we might partake of his divine nature. "The people living in darkness have seen a great light." Those imprisoned were about to hear of their deliverance from the Deliverer himself...

III. When it was time to circumcise him...

I should very much like for you to realize this morning that most of the events surrounding the development of our Master as a human were incredibly ordinary. He was conceived quite miraculously and extraordinarily, but from that point on, he had to develop like the rest of us. He wasn't delivered fully developed in hours or days or weeks; no, he had to develop over the months just like all babies throughout time. He was delivered in the midst of breathing, pushing and pain just like the rest of us. We have no reports of the child being brilliantly bright and lit up when he was born. He didn't come out of the womb clean and neat and already circumcised. No, the King of Kings and the Deliverer of all came into the world as normally as could be. When he was eight days old, Mary and Joseph had him circumcised according to the Law of God as given through Moses. Jesus was to be a part of the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenant people until he would institute a new covenant and a new circumcision (the circumcision of the heart).

IV. He was named Jesus... [Matthew 1:21]

The angels had told Joseph and Mary that the child to be born was to be named Jesus. Matthew wrote the angel's reason for the name: "because he will save his people from their sins." The Deliverer would be named according to his purpose: "the Lord saves." In this Jesus God would provide for the deliverance/salvation of all those who would believe.

V. Time of their purification... [Lev. 12:1-7]

Mary was not exempt from the legal requirements of purification. Even though she had given birth to the Son of the Most High, she was considered unclean and needed to wait the prescribed forty days. This purification would call for animals to be sacrificed, and Joseph could only afford the lesser sacrifice. Blood would be shed to purify this new mother. Little did she realize that her own Son would become the Greatest sacrifice of all so that all peoples might be purified unto God.

VI. My eyes have seen your salvation...

Good ol' Simeon was waiting on God to deliver on His promise. He was waiting along with all of faithful Israel, but he had a very special promise given to him: he would not die before seeing the Messiah come. The Spirit indicated to Simeon that this child was the fulfillment of God's great promise – not only to him, but to all of Israel. He knew that his child meant salvation, but could he know how great a salvation?

VII. A sober word for a new mother...

Simeon rejoiced at God's faithfulness and salvation, but he also knew something from the Spirit that would stop any new mother in her tracks. He prophesied about the child and the mother some very dark events. Mary had to be told that her role would be unique in its joy as well as in its pain. What else could be true for the mother of the Deliverer.

VIII. Redemption

Anna proclaimed the coming of the one who would bring redemption to Jerusalem according to the prophecies. Little did she, or anyone else know, that the redemption Jesus came to provide was for all the peoples of the earth.

