

Time Audit Chronicles: Jesus Presented in the Temple *(Luke 2:21-40)*

Prologue: A Fulfillment of Promises

The Presswood family sat gathered around the fireplace, the room filled with the soft glow of the fire. Ariel had just finished reading Luke 2:21-40, the story of Jesus being presented at the temple, and her heart was stirred with the beauty of the moment. Alice, holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to walk through the temple with her stuffed animals, as if she were part of the story.

“Daddy,” Ariel began, “Why did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple? And why was Simeon and Anna so excited when they saw Him?”

Ryan smiled, recognizing the depth of Ariel’s question. “That’s a great question, Ariel. Mary and Joseph were following the Jewish law. When a firstborn son was born, they were required to dedicate him to the Lord. It was a way of honoring God for the gift of life. They also made a sacrifice, as prescribed by the law, in thanksgiving for the birth of Jesus.”

Ariel thought for a moment. “So, even though Jesus was the Son of God, Mary and Joseph still followed the law, honoring God in the way He had commanded?”

“That’s exactly right,” Ryan said. “Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews, and they wanted to honor God with their lives and follow His commands, even though Jesus was the fulfillment of those very promises. Now, Simeon and Anna, who were both waiting for the Messiah, recognized that Jesus was the one they had been waiting for. They were both very old and had spent their lives faithfully serving God, and God had promised them that they would see the Messiah before they died. When they saw Jesus, they knew—without a doubt—that He was the Savior.”

Ariel’s eyes brightened. “So Simeon and Anna were waiting for Jesus because they knew He was going to bring salvation to everyone!”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Simeon even declared that Jesus was ‘a light to lighten the Gentiles,’ meaning that Jesus would bring salvation not only to Israel, but to the whole world.”

Ariel smiled, taking it all in. “That’s such an amazing moment—to see Simeon and Anna recognize Jesus as the Messiah.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Let’s use the Time Audit Machine to go back and witness this powerful moment when Jesus was presented in the temple, and Simeon and Anna declare Him to be the long-awaited Savior.”

The Journey Begins: The Presentation in the Temple *(Luke 2:21-24)*

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves standing at the gates of the temple in Jerusalem. The air was filled with the sounds of people bustling about,

offering their sacrifices and prayers. Mary and Joseph entered with Jesus, who was still a baby, and carried Him to the temple to fulfill the requirements of the law.

“This is the temple in Jerusalem,” Ryan said, gesturing around. “It was a grand and sacred place, where Jews from all over the region would come to worship. For Mary and Joseph, this was a significant moment—presenting Jesus to the Lord, just as the law required, but also recognizing that He was the fulfillment of everything God had promised.”

Ariel looked around in awe at the bustling temple. “This is where all the Jewish people came to worship God. It must have been so special to bring Jesus here, especially knowing who He was.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “And it’s also important to remember that even as a baby, Jesus was fulfilling the law. He was the perfect fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel, and His presence in the temple was a testimony to that.”

Simeon’s Recognition: The Messiah is Here (*Luke 2:25-32*)

As Mary and Joseph entered the temple, they were met by **Simeon**, a righteous and devout man who had been waiting for the consolation of Israel. Simeon had received a promise from the Holy Spirit that he would not die before seeing the Messiah. When he saw Jesus, he immediately recognized Him as the promised Savior.

“And, 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.” (Luke 2:25)

Ariel listened closely. “Simeon had been waiting his whole life to see the Messiah, and when he saw Jesus, he knew instantly that this baby was the one.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Simeon had a deep faith, and God had promised him that he would see the Messiah before his death. When he held Jesus in his arms, he declared that He was the Savior, not just for Israel, but for all people.”

Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying:

“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.” (Luke 2:29-32)

Ariel’s eyes filled with understanding. “Simeon declared Jesus as the Savior of the world! A light to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. He saw that Jesus was the one who would bring salvation to everyone.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Simeon recognized that Jesus wasn’t just a Jewish Messiah—He was the Savior of the whole world. His mission would reach beyond Israel to the Gentiles, bringing light and salvation to all people.”

Anna's Prophecy: A Witness of Faith (*Luke 2:36-38*)

As Simeon was praising God, an elderly prophetess named **Anna** approached. Anna had been a widow for many years and spent her life in the temple, fasting and praying, worshiping God night and day. She also recognized Jesus as the Messiah and gave thanks to God, speaking about Him to everyone who was waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

“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.” (Luke 2:38)

Ariel looked at her father. “Anna was so old, but she never stopped praying and waiting for the Messiah. And when she saw Jesus, she knew right away who He was!”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Anna was another example of faith and patience. She had been waiting her whole life for the Messiah, and when she saw Jesus, she recognized Him immediately. She couldn’t help but share the good news with everyone around her. Anna was one of the first to proclaim Jesus as the Savior.”

Mary and Joseph's Wonder and Fulfillment of the Law (*Luke 2:39-40*)

After Simeon and Anna's declarations, Mary and Joseph took Jesus home to Nazareth, and as He grew, He became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon Him.

“And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him.” (Luke 2:39-40)

Ariel smiled as she thought about the fulfillment of God's plan. “Even though Jesus was born in a humble way, He was growing up strong and wise. God's grace was with Him as He prepared for His mission.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus was fulfilling God's purpose for His life, and the people who saw Him recognized the light He brought into the world. Simeon and Anna were just the beginning—they were the first to declare that Jesus was the Savior of the world, and they were filled with joy and thanksgiving for the promise of salvation.”

Reflection: Waiting for the Savior

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on the powerful moments they had just witnessed. Ariel turned to her father, deep in thought. Alice, still playing with Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to be Simeon, proclaiming the good news of Jesus' birth.

“Simeon and Anna were waiting for so long for the Messiah,” Ariel said softly. “They had faith that God's promises were true, and when they saw Jesus, they knew right away that He was the one.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “Simeon and Anna were faithful and patient. They knew God would fulfill His promise, and when they saw Jesus, they couldn’t contain their joy. They recognized Him as the light of the world, the Savior who would bring salvation to all people.”

Ariel smiled. “Simeon even said Jesus was a light to the Gentiles. He wasn’t just the Savior of the Jews, but for everyone.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Jesus came to bring salvation to the whole world. He is the light that shines in the darkness, and He calls us to share that light with others.”

Takeaway: Waiting with Faith and Hope

In Luke 2:21-40, the presentation of Jesus in the temple is a powerful moment of fulfillment. Simeon and Anna, two faithful servants of God, recognized Jesus as the promised Savior of the world. Simeon declared that Jesus would be “a light to lighten the Gentiles,” showing that Jesus’ mission would extend far beyond Israel. Anna also proclaimed the good news, sharing with others the hope and redemption found in

Jesus. This story reminds us that God’s promises are always fulfilled, even when it seems like we’ve been waiting for a long time. Simeon and Anna’s faith and patience encourage us to trust in God’s timing and to share the light of Jesus with the world.