

1  **Luke: Narrative, Fulfilment, and Witness**

**Lecture 2**

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2  **'A light for revelation to the Gentiles'**

(Luke 2:22-40)

3  **Outline of series**

- Lecture 1: Introduction 'So that you may know the certainty' (Luke 1:1-4)
- Lecture 2: 'A light for revelation to the Gentiles' (Luke 2:22-40)
- Lecture 3: 'That is why I was sent' (Luke 4:14-44)
- Lecture 4: 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost' (Luke 19:1-10)
- Lecture 5: 'You are witnesses of these things' (Luke 24:1-53)

4  **Outline of lecture**

- Luke's Infancy Narrative
- How to Interpret Narrative
- Features of Luke's Narrative
  - Songs, Prayers and Prophecies
  - Summary Statements
- Key themes
  - Dedication, Law, Hope, Promise, Consolation, Salvation

5  **Luke's Infancy Narrative**

- Unique to Luke
  - Distinct from Matthew's Account
  - Makes important contributions relating to narrative, fulfilment, and witness

6  **How to Interpret Narrative**

- Identify 'genre'
  - Overall genre
  - Sub-genres
- Ask what the author wishes to convey
  - According to his stated purpose
  - Through forms of words
  - Through arrangement of material

7  **Features of Luke's Narrative**

- Birth announcements
  - Similar, but not identical
- Songs, Prayers and Prophecies
  - Mary, Zechariah, and Simeon use poetic forms
  - 'Speeches' provide interpretation of events
  - Draw of the language of the OT
- Summary Statements

8  **Presentation in the Temple**

<sup>22</sup> And when the days of their purification

according to the law of Moses  
 were finished,  
they brought him up to Jerusalem  
to present him to the Lord  
<sup>23</sup> (just as it is written in the law of the Lord,  
 Every firstborn male will be dedicated<sup>[a]</sup>  
 to the Lord<sup>[b]</sup>)  
<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice  
 (according to what is stated in the law of the Lord,  
 a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons<sup>[c]</sup>).

#### 9 Features to Note

- Repeated reference to the fulfilment of the law
  - The Torah is not rejected, but respected
- One acts with a two-fold purpose
  - To present
  - To offer
  - Echoes of Hannah and Samuel (1 Sam. 1?)

#### 10 Simeon's Expectancy

<sup>25</sup> There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.

This man was righteous and devout,  
looking forward to Israel's consolation,  
 and the *Holy Spirit* was on him.

<sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him  
 by the *Holy Spirit*  
 that he would not see death before he saw  
the Lord's Messiah.

<sup>27</sup> Guided by the *Spirit,*  
he entered the temple.  
 When the parents brought in the child Jesus  
to perform for him what was customary under the law.

#### 11 Features to Note

- Simeon's character is emphasised
  - Righteous and devout
  - Expectant: 'consolation of Israel', 'the Lord's Messiah'
- The role of the Holy Spirit is emphasised
  - Presence with Simeon
  - Revelation to Simeon
  - Direction of Simeon

#### 12 Simeon's Prophetic Praise

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said,

<sup>29</sup> Now, Master,

you can dismiss your servant in peace,  
as you promised.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation.

<sup>31</sup> You have prepared it  
in the presence of all peoples—

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles<sup>[d]</sup>  
and glory to your people Israel.

### 13 Features to Note

- Simeon's prayer
  - Fulfilment of promises
  - Personal: 'my eyes have seen your salvation'
  - National: 'glory to your people Israel'
  - International: 'peoples', 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles' (cf. Isa 42:6; 49:6)

### 14 Simeon's Prophetic Puzzle

<sup>33</sup> His father and mother<sup>[e]</sup> were amazed at what was being said about him.

<sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them  
and told his mother Mary:

"Indeed, this child is destined  
to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel  
and to be a sign that will be opposed<sup>[f]</sup>  
— <sup>35</sup> and a sword will pierce your own soul— that the thoughts<sup>[g]</sup> of  
many hearts may be revealed."

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### 15 Features to Note

- Simeon's 'prophetic puzzle'
  - Addressed to Mary
  - Echoes of 1 Sam 2:20-21?
  - Echoes of Isa 8:14-15. Compare Luke 4:14-30.
  - Personal pain for Mary foretold?

### 16 Anna's testimony

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophetess,  
Anna, a daughter of Phanuel,  
of the tribe of Asher.

She was well along in years,  
having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,<sup>[h]</sup>  
<sup>37</sup> and was a widow for eighty-four years.<sup>[i]</sup>

She did not leave the temple,  
serving God night and day with fasting and prayers.

<sup>38</sup> At that very moment,<sup>[j]</sup>  
she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him  
to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.<sup>[k]</sup>

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#### 17 **Features to Note**

- Anna identified as a 'prophet'
- No quoted words
- Characterised by:
  - Worship
  - Thanksgiving (for implied fulfilment of promise)
  - Witness to those who hope for 'redemption of Jerusalem'

#### 18 **Summary Statement**

<sup>39</sup> When they had completed everything  
according to the law of the Lord,  
they returned to Galilee,  
to their own town  
of Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup> The boy grew up and became strong,  
filled with wisdom,  
and God's grace was on him.

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#### 19 **Features to Note**

- A regular feature of Luke's narrative
  - See 5:15-16; 19:47-48, for example.
- Jesus is described in similar terms to John
  - Cf 1:80 and 2:40

#### 20 **Conclusion**

- Simeon and Anna combine
  - To testify to the infant Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promise
  - To declare that Jesus will be the one to realise the expectant hopes of those who wait for God to act