

A Fearful Christmas
Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:16-18

Review:

1. If we try to hold on to our own power, the fear of the Lord will push us to anger and hatred.
2. If we encounter the Lord without knowing Him, we will only be afraid of His power and purity.
3. But when the power of God is combined with our trust in the promises of God, our fear is transformed into wonder and worship

Go further: Read Leviticus 12:1-8, Luke 2:21-38

1. According to Leviticus 12:2, how long was a woman considered to be unclean after she had given birth to a male child?
2. What was to happen to a male child on the eighth day?
3. After this, how long was a new mother supposed to wait before she could enter the sanctuary?
4. What does verse 5 say was different about giving birth to a female child?
5. What offering was a woman supposed to bring to the priest after bearing a child?
6. What does verse 7 say was the purpose of this offering?
7. What sort of offering was a woman supposed to make if she was poor?
8. How old does Luke 2:21 say Jesus was when He was circumcised?
9. Why did His parents give him the name Jesus (see also Matthew 1:21, Luke 1:31)?
10. In verse 22, why did Jesus' parents bring Him to the temple?
11. Verse 23 refers to Exodus 13:2. What does it say should happen to every firstborn male?
12. Given what happened in Exodus 12:29, why should firstborn males be treated in this way?
13. What sacrifice does Luke 2:24 say Jesus' parents brought? What does their choice of sacrifice tell us about their financial condition?
14. How does Luke describe Simeon's character in verse 25?
15. How does Luke describe Simeon's relationship with God?
16. In verse 26, what did the Holy Spirit reveal to Simeon?
17. Who directed Simeon to come into the Temple? Who also came in at this time?
18. How does Simeon say in verse 29 that God had kept His Word?
19. What does Simeon say he has seen in verse 30? Who is Simeon talking about?
20. To whom does Simeon say Jesus will be a blessing? What sort of blessing will He bring?
21. What was Mary and Joseph's reaction to Simeon's prophecy?
22. In verse 34, what effect does Simeon say Jesus will have on many of the people of Israel?
23. What does Simeon say will happen to Mary because of Jesus' life and ministry?
24. What does Simeon say that Jesus will reveal?

Apply:

1. What do Mary and Joseph's obedient actions tell us about their relationship with God? How have you tried to express your own obedience to God in difficult circumstances?
2. Have you ever had to wait a long time for the Lord to bless you in a specific way? How did you keep your faith while you were waiting?