

THE CHRIST CHILD Luke 2v34-35 'This child'

Luke had come to Jerusalem with Paul and when he was arrested there and taken to Caesarea for 2 years before he set sail for Rome as a prisoner the author of this gospel probably found the time to gather material to tell the story of Jesus. For ch 1 and 2 there were certainly long conversations with Mary who remembered these things carefully, Lk.2v19,33,51.

Mary, according to the law, was required to offer a sacrifice after 40 days in the Court of the women in the temple. The couple being poor can only as the law required offer two doves or pigeons (Lev 12v8). Into this kind of home Jesus came! For us!

Being led by the Spirit of God Simeon came into the temple. He was righteous and devout, the first speaks of how he was towards men; the second what he was toward God. He had a living relationship with God and the Holy Spirit was upon him , empowering and controlling or guiding him.

He was waiting for the Messiah's coming. Waiting for his first coming; just so we must wait for his second and in the same spiritual condition as Simeon. Simeon made some wonderful statements – about himself, about the child Jesus and also he spoke to Mary, his mother. MANY THINGS HERE BUT MUST FOCUS ON V34-35 WHAT HE SAID TO MARY ABOUT THE CHRIST CHILD.

Addresses his words particularly to Mary. Is it that Joseph will be dead before the cross and will not share the pangs of sorrow which Mary will experience?

(A) WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE CHILD AND ISRAEL

Set for the fall and rising again IN ISRAEL. They (Israel) stumbled over him and fell. He was for them a stumbling stone, a rock of offence. He was a sign that God was active again among his people after 400 years – he and his miracles were the sign, but he was spoken against. And after his resurrection when the disciples gave witness to it they rejected him; they would not accept a crucified messiah, for someone hung on a tree was a sign of being cursed by God (did not understand he was made a curse for us).

But what about the rise? From Israel arose the church – the 12 disciples – all Jews were the nucleus of a new Israel. The church began 50 days after his crucifixion in Jerusalem and 3000 Jews and proselytes repented and were converted. This is still the same today:

(a) A man or women must fall before they can rise. Realize you are lost and **have nothing** to commend yourself to God. From here you can rise. You can realize when you do nothing/God did...

(b) We fall if we reject Jesus - we rise if we trust him. He can prove to be a saviour to many. In him there is salvation v30 – not church but in him and his coming is for 'all peoples'.

(A) WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE CHILD AND MARY

v35 "Sword pierce" The thought is of the anguish of Mary at the rejection of her son, fulfilled especially at the cross. Addresses his words particularly to Mary. Is it that Joseph will be dead before the cross and will not share the pangs of sorrow which Mary will experience?

Not enough for him to be born – but had to take our place and die. Mary kept things in her heart Lk.2v19,33,51, but worse was to come. Jesus received 5 wounds all different (said to represent each possible type of wound)

- **A bruise where the skin is not broken** (Micah 5:1) Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek. Mat 26:67
- **A lacerated wound caused by the whip or scourge which had tip of metal, lead or bone.** (Psalm 129:3) The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows. John 19:1

- **a penetrating wound** A wound produced by a sharp pointed instrument. The crown of thorns produced this kind of wound upon the head of Jesus. It is said the Jerusalem thorn bore sharp spike like projections up to 4 inches (10 cc) in length. (Mat 27:29)
- **A wound produced by a piercing instrument.** Perforating comes from a Latin word 'to pierce through.(Psa 22:16)
- **An incised wound** A deep cut produced by a sharp edged instrument. (John 19:34)

One can understand the pain of Mary – but of course this was only the physical sufferings of Christ. He bore the wrath of God which was due to us.

(A) WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE CHILD AND YOU AND ME.

The thoughts of many hearts are revealed. And men are divided in their thought about him. Their thoughts are revealed. It shows what they really are. Remember 2Cor.2v16.

So what are your thoughts about him? Do you love him? John 14v15 'If love me...will keep his commandments/come to thank him-Where are the 9? Come every Sunday to thank him? Serve him? 2 Cor.5v14-15. What do you think of Christ? Is he your savior? He is the saviour/mediator. Repent of sin/rebellion and trust him? Will determine your destiny. The salvation he brought is for 'all peoples'; it was prepared of God – he sent him to die for us; but those who reject that salvation will come under judgement.