

# Celebrating HIS First Coming

## *Remembering what the Prophets said... Pt. 6*

### Luke 2:1-20 AMPC

1 In those days it occurred that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole [a]Roman empire should be registered.

2 This was the first enrollment, and it was made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And all the people were going to be registered, each to his own city or town.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 To be enrolled with Mary, his espoused ([b]married) wife, who was about to become a mother.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her delivery,

7 And she gave birth to her Son, her Firstborn; and she wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room or place for them in the inn.

8 And in that vicinity there were shepherds living [out under the open sky] in the field, watching [in shifts] over their flock by night.

9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord flashed and shone all about them, and they were terribly frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people.

11 For to you is born this day in the town of David a Savior, Who is Christ (the Messiah) the Lord!

12 And this will be a sign for you [by which you will recognize Him]: you will find [[c]after searching] a Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

13 Then suddenly there appeared with the angel an army of the troops of heaven ([d]a heavenly knighthood), **praising God and saying.**

14 Glory to God in the highest [heaven], and on earth peace among men with whom He is well pleased [[e]men of goodwill, of His favor].

15 When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, **Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing ([f]saying) that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.**

16 So they went with haste and [[g]by searching] found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.

17 And when they saw it, they made known what had been told them concerning this Child.

18 And all who heard it were astounded and marveled at what the shepherds told them.

19 But Mary was keeping [h]within herself all these things ([i]sayings), weighing and pondering them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Luke 2:21 KJV**

*21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

### **Luke 2:21 AMPC**

*21 And at the end of eight days, when [the Baby] was to be circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.*

Abraham had promised God that all the male children would be circumcised on the 8th day after their birth. The children were named during this special ceremony. The angel had told Mary what the babe's name should be, and she has followed his instructions.

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### **Luke 2:22 KJV**

*22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;*

### **Luke 2:22 AMPC**

*22 And when the time for their purification [the mother's purification and the Baby's dedication] came according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord*

A woman who bore a son was ceremonially unclean for 40 days (twice that if she bore a daughter, Lev. 12:2-5).

After that she was to offer a yearling lamb and a dove or pigeon (Lev. 12:6). If poor, she could offer two doves or pigeons (Lev. 12:8). Mary's offering indicates that she and Joseph were poor (verse 24).

***“To Jerusalem”:*** A journey of about 6 miles from Bethlehem.

***“To present him to the Lord”:*** The dedication of the firstborn son was also required by Moses' law (see verse 23; Exodus 13:2, 12-15). Mary was a woman who pleased God. She lived as close as possible to the Law of Moses. Moses, in the law God had given him, gave a law of purification after childbirth; and Mary followed this law. This can be found (in Leviticus 12:2-3).

The temple was in Jerusalem, so this is where they brought Jesus for dedication to the Lord. Mary's purification would have been complete 40 days after Jesus' birth. This temple dedication was on the 40th day.

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### **Luke 2:23 KJV**

*23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)*

### **Luke 2:23 AMPC**

*23 As it is written in the Law of the Lord, Every [firstborn] male that opens the womb shall be set apart and dedicated and called holy to the Lord*

### **Exodus 34:19 KJV**

*19 All that openeth the matrix is mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, whether ox or sheep, that is male.*

In Exodus 34:19 (KJV), "matrix" means the womb and the term "matrix" comes from Latin, meaning "womb" or "source," connecting to the Latin *mater* (mother). Matrix is referring to the first offspring, both human and animal, that opens it; the verse commands these firstborns be dedicated to God, signifying His ownership and provision.

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### **Luke 2:24 KJV**

24 *And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.*

### **Luke 2:24 AMPC**

24 *And [they came also] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*

In (Leviticus 12:6-8), we see the Levitical law that covers the gift Mary brought for her atonement, She could not bring a lamb so she brought the lesser expensive sacrifice.

### Luke 2:25 KJV

25 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 AMPC

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout [cautiously and carefully observing the divine Law], and looking for the Consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

**“Simeon”:** He is mentioned nowhere else in Scripture. **“The consolation of Israel”:** A messianic title, evidently derived from verses like (Isaiah. 25:9; 14:1-2; 66:1-11). The consolation of Israel was Messiah. This man believed that during his lifetime Messiah would come.

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### Luke 2:26 KJV

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

### Luke 2:26 AMPC

26 And it had been divinely revealed (communicated) to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

***“That it was revealed unto him”:*** It is significant that with messianic expectation running so high (3:15), and with the many Old Testament prophecies that spoke of His coming, still only a handful of people realized the significance of Christ’s birth.

Most of them, including Simeon, received some angelic message or other special revelation to make the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies clear. This devout believer, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit of God, had been informed by revelation that he would not die before he saw the Lord (anointed one), Christ. He believed and expected this to be true.

Jesus said what the Holy Spirit would do when He came...

**John 16:8 AMPC**

*8 And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment:*

**John 16:13 AMPC**

*13 But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].*

Paul told Timothy to keep these “things” as the filter, the motivator, the essence of when you bring the Word...

## **2 Timothy 4:1-6 AMPC**

1 I charge [you] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead, and by **(in the light of)** **His coming** and His kingdom:

2 Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching.

3 **For the time is coming** when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], **they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold.**

4 And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.

5 As for you, be calm and cool and steady, accept and suffer unflinchingly every hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fully perform all the duties of your ministry.

You and I, the beloved or genuine followers and imitators of Jesus Christ, We, with the apostle Paul, look for “the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13). Knowing that the Lord could come back today, some are tempted to stop what they are doing and just “wait” for Him.

**Titus 2:1, 11-15 AMPC**

**1 But [as for] you, teach what is fitting and becoming to sound (wholesome) doctrine [the character and right living that identify true Christians].**

**11 For the grace of God (His unmerited favor and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin and the eternal salvation for all mankind.**

**12 It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires, to live discreet (temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout (spiritually whole) lives in this present world.**

**13 Awaiting and looking for the [fulfillment, the realization of our] blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One).**

**14 Who gave Himself on our behalf that He might redeem us (purchase our freedom) from all iniquity and purify for Himself a people [to be peculiarly His own, people who are] eager and enthusiastic about [living a life that is good and filled with] beneficial deeds.**

**15 Tell [them all] these things. Urge (advise, encourage, warn) and rebuke with full authority. Let no one despise or disregard or think little of you [conduct yourself and your teaching so as to command respect].**

God's Word (Jesus is the Word) has not and will never change. It is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). The Never Wrong prophet Malachi said' "I am the Lord (the Word) I changeth not". (Malachi 3:6)

God discloses/reminds the beloved through the whole teaching of His Word combined with the power of the Holy Spirit: Sin, Judgment, Righteousness and the Things come that were already foretold so we would not miss His 2nd Coming, the Rapture of the Church.

In Peter final letter's to the beloved (1 and 2 Peter), he reminded them (you and I) to be Holy in preparation for Jesus return. He was bringing forth what God has spoken directly to Moses and Aaron documented in the book Leviticus (11:44)

### **1 Peter 1:10-19 AMPC**

*10 The prophets, who prophesied of the grace (divine blessing) **which was intended for you**, searched and inquired earnestly about this salvation.*

*11 **They sought [to find out] to whom or when this was to come which the Spirit of Christ working within them was indicating when He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that should follow [them].***

*12 **It was then disclosed to them that the services they were rendering were not meant for themselves and their period of time, but for you.** [It is these very] things which have now already been made known plainly to you by those who preached the good news (the Gospel) to you by the [same] Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Into these things [the very] angels long to look!*

*13 So brace up your minds; be sober (circumspect, morally alert); set your hope wholly and unchangeably on the grace (divine favor) that is coming to you when Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is revealed.*

14 [Live] as children of obedience [to God]; do not conform yourselves to the evil desires [that governed you] in your former ignorance [when you did not know the requirements of the Gospel].

**15 But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living.**

**16 For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.**

17 And if you call upon Him as [your] Father Who judges each one impartially according to what he does, [then] you should conduct yourselves with true reverence throughout the time of your temporary residence [on the earth, whether long or short].

18 You must know (recognize) that you were redeemed (ransomed) from the useless (fruitless) way of living inherited by tradition from [your] forefathers, not with corruptible things [such as] silver and gold,

19 But [you were purchased] with the precious blood of Christ (the Messiah), like that of a [sacrificial] lamb without blemish or spot.

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### **Luke 2:27-29 KJV**

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

### **Luke 2:27-29 AMPC**

27 And prompted by the [Holy] Spirit, he came into the temple [[a]enclosure]; and when the parents brought in the little child Jesus to do for Him what was customary according to the Law,  
28 [Simeon] took Him up in his arms and praised and thanked God and said,

29 And now, Lord, You are releasing Your servant to depart (leave this world) in peace, according to Your word.

Simeon was very old, possibly over 100 years. So old that he came by the power of the Spirit of God which was to dedicate Jesus. Simeon immediately recognized through the Holy Spirit that this child is the Savior of the world; the Messiah. He says, now that I have seen Him, I am ready to go home to heaven.

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### **Luke 2:30 KJV**

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

### **Luke 2:30 AMPC**

30 For with my [own] eyes I have seen Your Salvation,

**“Thy salvation”:** The One who would redeem His people from their sin.

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### **Luke 2:31 KJV**

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

### **Luke 2:31 AMPC**

*31 Which You have ordained and prepared before (in the presence of) all peoples,*

**“All people”:** All nations, tongues and tribes (Rev. 7:9), both Israel and the Gentiles (verse 32). All those who have been caught in the rapture (died habitually righteous and are in paradise shall come with Jesus 1 Thess. to join those snatched out of harms way as a result of living habitually righteous) are all gathered together in the beginning of the 7 year Tribulation. The 42 month mark or half way through the 7 years Tribulation does not begin until Revelation chapters 11, 12 and 13)

### **Revelation 7:9 KJV**

*9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

### **Revelation 7:9 AMPC**

*9 After this I looked and a vast host appeared which no one could count, [gathered out] of every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. These stood before the throne and before the Lamb; they were attired in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.*

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### **Luke 2:32 KJV**

*32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*

### **Luke 2:32 AMPC**

*32 A Light for [a]revelation to the Gentiles [to disclose what was before unknown] and [to bring] praise and honor and glory to Your people Israel.*

This type of Light here, is the Light of the knowledge of God. The Gentiles have never had an opportunity up until then to know God and then to be the children of Light. Jesus is the hope of the Gentile and the Messiah will come as an Israelite or Jew.

### **Psalm 119:130 AMPC**

*130 The entrance and **unfolding** of Your words give light; their unfolding gives understanding(discernment and comprehension) to the simple.*

#### **Unfolding defined:**

Opening; expanding; disclosing; displaying; releasing from a fold.

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### **Luke 2:33 KJV**

*33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.*

### **Luke 2:33 AMPC**

*33 And His [legal] father and [His] mother were marveling at what was said about Him.*

Notice that Joseph is not Jesus' father. The Scripture does show Mary as Jesus' mother. Mary realizes that Jesus is special, but even now does not know just exactly what He came to do and how He was to fulfill God's Plan.

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### **Luke 2:34 KJV**

*34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;*

### **Luke 2:34 AMPC**

*34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, Behold, this Child is appointed and destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against*

**“Rising again of many in Israel”:** To those who reject Him, He is a stone of stumbling (1 Peter 2:8); those who receive Him are raised up (Eph. 2:6; 8:14-15; Hos. 14:9; 1 Cor. 1:23-24).

**“Sign which shall be spoken against”:** This was synecdoche. Simeon mentioned only the verbal insults hurled at Christ, but the expression actually embraced more than that, Israel's rejection, and hatred, and then the crucifixion of the Messiah.

### **Isaiah 53:1-7 AMPC**

*1 Who has believed (trusted in, relied upon, and clung to) our message [of that which was revealed to us]? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been disclosed?*

2 For [the Servant of God] grew up before Him like a tender plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He has no form or comeliness [royal, kingly pomp], that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him.

**3 He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, a Man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like One from Whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him.**

4 Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy].

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, [yet when] He was afflicted, He was submissive and opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth.

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### **Luke 2:35 KJV**

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

### **Luke 2:35 AMPC**

*35 And a sword will pierce through your own soul also—that the secret thoughts and purposes of many hearts may be brought out and disclosed.*

**“A sword”:** This was undoubtedly a reference to the personal grief Mary would endure when she watched her own Son die in agony (John 19:25). This prophecy by Simeon to Mary, states that Jesus would expose religion and would be its downfall while raising up the Son or the Word, (causing both rise and fall) and that "a sword will pierce your own soul also," signifying her deep sorrow as she shares in His suffering, revealing the true thoughts and intentions of many hearts. This verse speaks to the pain Mary would endure witnessing Jesus's path, foreshadowing His Passion and the division His life and teachings would create between religion and relationship.

### **John 19:24-28 AMPC**

*24 So they said to one another, Let us not tear it, but let us cast lots to decide whose it shall be. This was to fulfill the Scripture, They parted My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. So the soldiers did these things.*

**25 But by the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the [wife] of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.**

**26 So Jesus, seeing His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing near, said to His mother, [A]Dear woman, See, [here is] your son!**

*27 Then He said to the disciple, See, [here is] your mother! And from that hour, the disciple took her into his own [keeping, own home].*

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished (ended), said in fulfillment of the Scripture, I thirst.

29 A vessel (jar) full of sour wine (vinegar) was placed there, so they put a sponge soaked in the sour wine on [a stalk, reed of] hyssop, and held it to [His] mouth.

30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, It is finished! And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.



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