

# The Story of Christmas

**Luke 2:21-40 (NIV)**

**21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before He was conceived.**



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**22** When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord



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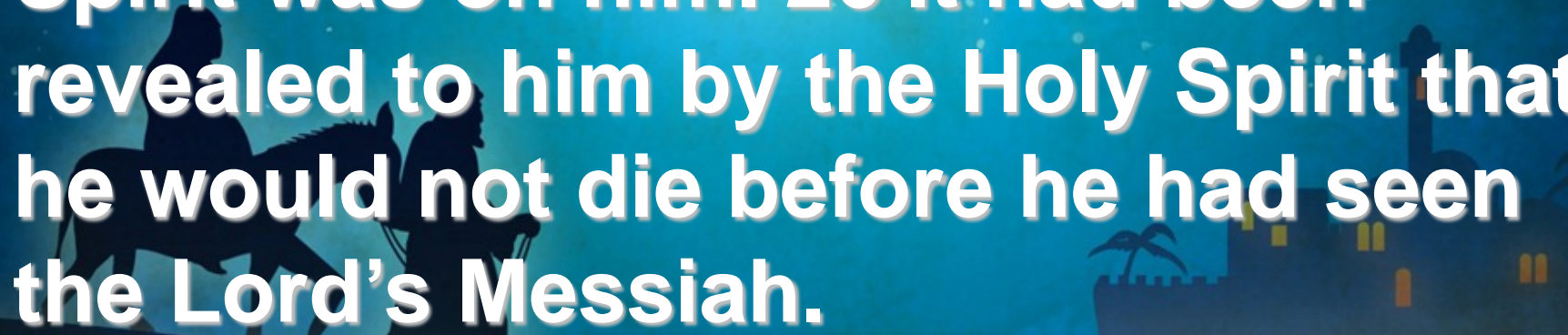
23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”



# The Story of Christmas

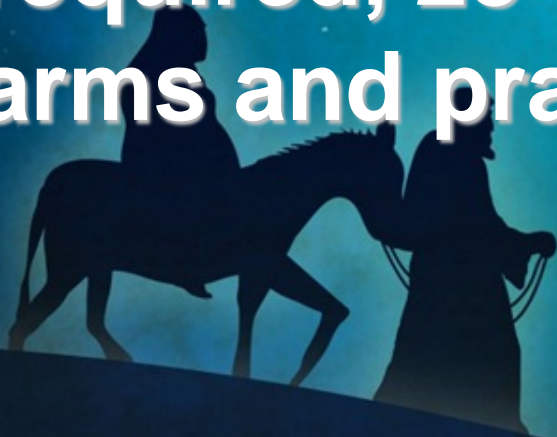


25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.



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27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying:



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29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,

you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,



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31 which you have prepared in the  
sight of all nations:  
32 a light for revelation to the  
Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people  
Israel.”



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The background of the slide is a dark blue night sky with a bright, multi-pointed star in the upper center. In the lower portion, there are silhouettes of three camels and their riders, likely the Three Kings, moving across a dark landscape. In the distance, there are silhouettes of buildings, including a church with a steeple, and some windows are lit up with a warm yellow glow.

**33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,**



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35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”



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**Matthew 10:34 (NIV)**

**34 “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.**



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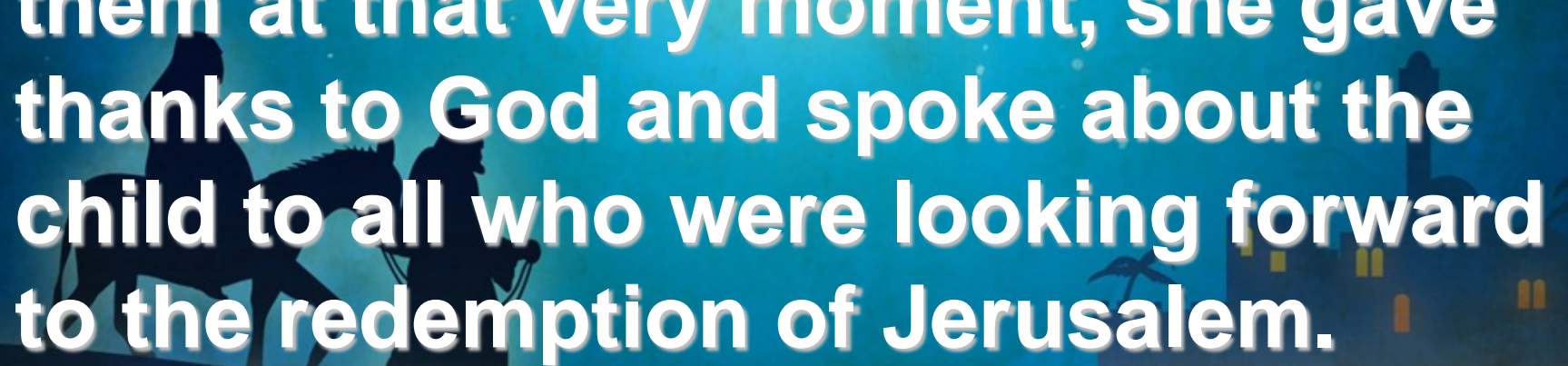
36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,



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37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.



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39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on Him.



# The Story of Christmas

Luke's songs

Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55)

Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79)

Angels (Luke 2:14)

Simeon (Luke 2:29-32)



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Isaiah 12:4-6 (NIV)

4 In that day you will say:

“Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name;

make known among the nations what He has done,

and proclaim that His name is exalted.



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5 Sing to the Lord, for he has done  
glorious things;

let this be known to all the world.

6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, people  
of Zion,

for great is the Holy One of  
Israel among you.”





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Video: Bethlehem Rhapsody

