



## Lesson 4 – The Dedication

Based on Luke 2:21-38

In the Old Testament, after giving birth, a woman was required to bring two offerings to a priest at the entrance of the Tabernacle to be ceremonially clean again:

- Burnt offering: A one-year-old lamb, or two turtledoves or young pigeons if the woman couldn't afford a lamb
- Sin offering: A young pigeon or turtledove

The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to save the sinner. This gift was to be acknowledged in every household by the consecration of the first-born son. He was to be devoted to the priesthood, as a representative of Christ among men.

1) How did Peter Describe Jesus?

**1 Peter 1:19-20** But with the precious \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was \_\_\_\_\_ before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

These offerings represented Christ, and from this it is evident that Jesus Himself was free from physical deformity. He was the **“lamb without blemish and without spot.” 1 Peter 1:19**. His physical structure was not marred by any defect; His body was strong and healthy. And throughout His lifetime He lived in conformity to nature's laws.

2) What did God tell Moses to speak to Pharaoh?

**Exodus 4:22-23** And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my \_\_\_\_\_: And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou \_\_\_\_\_ to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

God claimed the children of Israel in Egypt as His firstborn.

3) How did Pharaoh respond?

**Exodus 5:2** And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should \_\_\_\_\_ his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

The Lord worked for His people by signs and wonders, sending terrible judgments upon Pharaoh. At length, the destroying angel was bidden to slay the first-born of man and beast among the Egyptians. That the Israelites might be spared, they were directed to place upon their doorposts the blood of a slain lamb. Every house was to be marked, that when the angel came on his mission of death, he might pass over the homes of the Israelites.

4) What command was given to the Israelites after they were delivered from Egypt?

**Exodus 13:12** That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every \_\_\_\_\_ that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S.



**Exodus 13:13** And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of \_\_\_\_\_ among thy children shalt thou redeem.

After the tabernacle service was established, the Lord chose the tribe of Levi in the place of the first-born of all Israel to minister in the sanctuary. But the first-born was still to be regarded as the Lord's, and were to be bought back by a ransom.

5) Who was blessed at the dedication of Jesus?

**Luke 2:25-26** And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was \_\_\_\_\_; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see \_\_\_\_\_, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

As Simeon enters the temple, he sees a family presenting their first-born son before the priest. Their appearance bespeaks poverty; but Simeon understands the warnings of the Spirit, and he is deeply impressed that the infant being presented to the Lord is the Consolation of Israel, the One he has longed to see.

6) What did he say next?

**Luke 2:29-32** Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy \_\_\_\_\_, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A \_\_\_\_\_ to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

7) What blessing did he pronounce upon our Lord?

**Luke 2:34-35** And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many \_\_\_\_\_ may be revealed.

8) Who else blessed Jesus?

**Luke 2:36-37** And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the \_\_\_\_\_, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

**Verse 38** And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem.

These humble worshipers had not studied the prophecies in vain. But those who held positions as rulers and priests in Israel, though they too had before them the precious utterances of prophecy, were not walking in the way of the Lord, and their eyes were not open to behold the Light of life.

9) What did Simeon's words bring to Jesus' earthly parents mind?

**Isaiah 11:1-2** And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a \_\_\_\_\_ shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;



**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called \_\_\_\_\_, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of \_\_\_\_\_.

“Behold,” Simeon had said, “**this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against.**” They must fall who would rise again. We must fall upon the Rock and be broken before we can be uplifted in Christ. Self must be dethroned, pride must be humbled, if we would know the glory of the spiritual kingdom.

10) What did God promise us through Jeremiah?

**Jeremiah 29:11-13** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, \_\_\_\_\_ of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will \_\_\_\_\_ unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

God's hatred of sin is as strong as death, His love for the sinner is stronger than death. Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work.

The whole treasury of heaven is open to those He seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, and laid open the resources of infinite power, He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man.

11) What do the redeemed say while they are on the Sea of Glass in Heaven?

**Revelation 15:3-4** And they sing the song of \_\_\_\_\_ the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made \_\_\_\_\_.

The beginning of your walk with God begins with a dedication. Jesus was the example for all of us. Have you dedicated your life to the only one that can save you? He who overcomes will eat of the Tree of Life. God has worked out a plan to keep His Law intact and yet save humanity. Will you be a partaker of His amazing offer or will you walk away? The universe is watching to see what you will decide. Dedicate your life to Him and you will receive His grace and power to overcome this world. He is waiting, what say you?

***Can you see that Jesus was the Firstborn over all creation?***

***Are you interested in dedicating your life to Him?***

***When is the time to do that?***

