

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

Faith in God's Promise (Part III)

...Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth!

Luke 2: 22-38 (Focus Text)

²²And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, **“EVERY *first-born* MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD”**), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, **“A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.”**

²⁵And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, **looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.** ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷**And he came in the Spirit into the temple;** and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, ²⁸then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

²⁹“ Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰For my eyes have seen Your salvation, ³¹Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²**A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel.”**

³³And His father and mother were amazed at the things being said about Him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, **“Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—³⁵and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”**

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God and continued to speak of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the Law,** ⁵**so that He might redeem those who were under the Law,** that we might receive the

adoption as sons. ⁶**Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying Abba! Father!** ⁷Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

John 5:19-25

¹⁹Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. ²¹**For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom He wishes.**

²⁴” Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgement, but has passed out of death into life. ²⁵**Truly, truly I say to you, the hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.**

Titus 3:4-7

⁴But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared. ⁵**He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.**

LBC Chapter 14: Of Saving Faith (Article 3 of 3)

This faith, although it be different in degrees, and may be weak or strong, yet it is in the least degree of it different in the kind or the nature of it, as is all other saving grace, from the faith and common grace of temporary believers; and therefore, though it may be many times assailed and weakened, yet it gets the victory, growing up in many to the attainment of a full assurance through Christ, who is both the author and finisher of our faith.

(Hebrews 5:13-14; Matthew 6:30; Romans 4:19-20; 2 Peter 1:1; Ephesians 6:16; 1 John 5:4-5; Hebrews 6:11-12; Colossians 2:2; Hebrews 12:2)