

# When Faithfulness meets Promise

Luke 2:22-35



# COUNTDOWN

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DAYS

HOURS

MINUTES

SECONDS

05    23    35    06

-460 DAYS

The angel appears to Zechariah

# COUNTDOWN

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DAYS

HOURS

MINUTES

SECONDS

05    23    35    06

-280 DAYS

The angel appears to Mary

# COUNTDOWN

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DAYS

HOURS

MINUTES

SECONDS

05    23    35    06

DAY 0

The birth of Jesus Christ

# COUNTDOWN

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DAYS

HOURS

MINUTES

SECONDS

05 23 35 06

DAY 40

.....

## Noah

Genesis 6:7-8 So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

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# COUNTDOWN

**Joseph** Genesis 37:6 – He [Joseph] said to them, [ his brothers] “Listen to this dream I had:

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COUNTDOWN



**Joshua** Joshua 21:45 -  
Not one of all the Lord's  
good promises to Israel  
failed; every one was  
fulfilled.

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# COUNTDOWN



Simeon and Jesus

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COUNTDOWN



**LUKE 2:22-25a**

**1. THE  
BACKGROUND  
TO THE STORY:  
HOW SIMEON  
MET JESUS**

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

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.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon ...

**LUKE 2:22-25a**



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# THE PURIFICATION RITES

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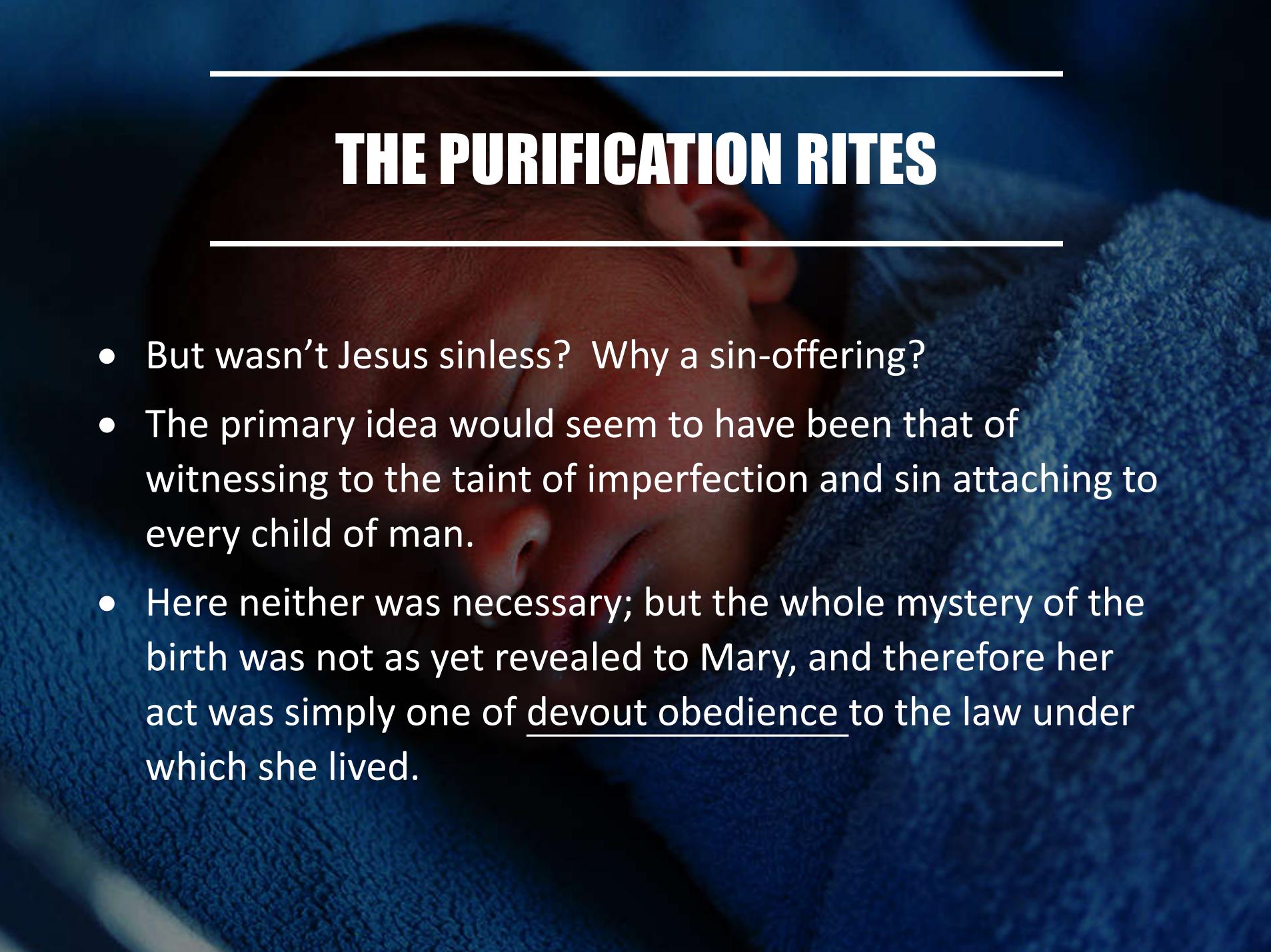




# THE PURIFICATION RITES

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- Women after childbirth, when the child was a boy, were unclean for seven days, and had besides to stay at home thirty-three days more.
- Then they were bound to present in the temple an offering of purification, namely, a lamb of a year old as a burnt-offering, and a young pigeon or turtle-dove as a sin-offering; or else, if their means were too small for this, two turtle-doves or young pigeons, the one as a burnt-offering, the other as a sin-offering. See Leviticus 12:1-6.



# THE PURIFICATION RITES

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- But wasn't Jesus sinless? Why a sin-offering?
- The primary idea would seem to have been that of witnessing to the taint of imperfection and sin attaching to every child of man.
- Here neither was necessary; but the whole mystery of the birth was not as yet revealed to Mary, and therefore her act was simply one of devout obedience to the law under which she lived.



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**THE PURIFICATION RITES**

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**THE BLESSING OF FAITHFULNESS**

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# **THE PURIFICATION RITES**

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## **THE BLESSING OF FAITHFULNESS**

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- You may never know how God may honor and bless our -  
(a) devoutness to God and (b) faithfulness and (c)  
obedience to God. (Mary & Joseph, Simeon)
- These 3 qualities are precious and bring blessing – to  
ourselves and to others. Faithfulness – an important  
quality in the Bible
- To be faithful is to be (a) reliable, (b) steadfast and (c)  
unwavering

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## **THE PURIFICATION RITES**

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## **THE BLESSING OF FAITHFULNESS**

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The Bible speaks of this type of faithfulness in at least five ways:

1. As an attribute of God;

Hebrews 13:8; 2 Thes 3:3; 1 John 1:9

To Simeon

2. As a positive characteristic of some men;

Luke 16:10-12; Gal 5:22-23

Good and faithful servant. - Luke 19:17

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## **THE PURIFICATION RITES**

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### **THE BLESSING OF FAITHFULNESS**

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The Bible speaks of this type of faithfulness in at least five ways:

3. As a characteristic that many men lack;
4. As a gift of the Holy Spirit.
5. The sense of “believing”

God will always bless faithfulness. God Himself is faithful.



LUKE 2:25-27a

**2. THE MAN  
SIMEON,  
THE HOLY  
SPIRIT  
... AND YOU**

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.

27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts...

**LUKE 2:25-27a**



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# **LET'S TALK ABOUT SIMEON**

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# LET'S TALK ABOUT SIMEON

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- Simeon was a righteous and devout man – awaiting the consolation i.e. the comfort, solace of Israel
- (New Living Translation) - At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was **righteous** and **devout** and was **eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come** and rescue Israel. **The Holy Spirit was upon him.**
- That was how the Bible described him

# THE BELIEF TEST

Think of the first 5 words that spontaneously come to mind when I mention this word:

**WORK  
MONEY  
TAXI DRIVER**

**YOU (insert your name)**

# LET'S TALK ABOUT SIMEON

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- (New Living Translation) - At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was **righteous** and **devout** and was **eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come** and rescue Israel. **The Holy Spirit was upon him.**
- That was how the Bible described him
- What would come to mind if I mentioned your name? What 3 things would come to your mind? What 3 things would come to people's mind? What 3 things would God say about you?

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## **LET'S TALK ABOUT SIMEON**

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## **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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## **LET'S TALK ABOUT SIMEON**

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## **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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The Holy Spirit is mentioned 3 times in 3 verses

A photograph of two hands reaching upwards towards the sky. The hands are positioned palm-up, fingers spread, against a dark, moody background of clouds. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of the hands and the texture of the skin.

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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**LUKE 2:25-27a**



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## LET'S TALK ABOUT SIMEON

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## LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

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1. He fills Simeon – and today, **he fills those who are righteous and devout and eagerly waiting for the Messiah**



**JOHN 3:16** For God so loved the world  
that he gave his one and only  
Son, that whoever believes in him  
shall not perish but have eternal life.

## **LET'S TALK ABOUT SIMEON**

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## **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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1. He fills Simeon – and today, **he fills those who are righteous and devout and eagerly waiting for the Messiah**
2. He revealed to Simeon a special promise and blessing “that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.” - and today, **he revealed promises and blessings and God**
3. He moved Simeon and Simeon obeyed and received the greatest blessing of his life, and today, **he still moves in our hearts.**

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## **LET'S TALK ABOUT SIMEON**

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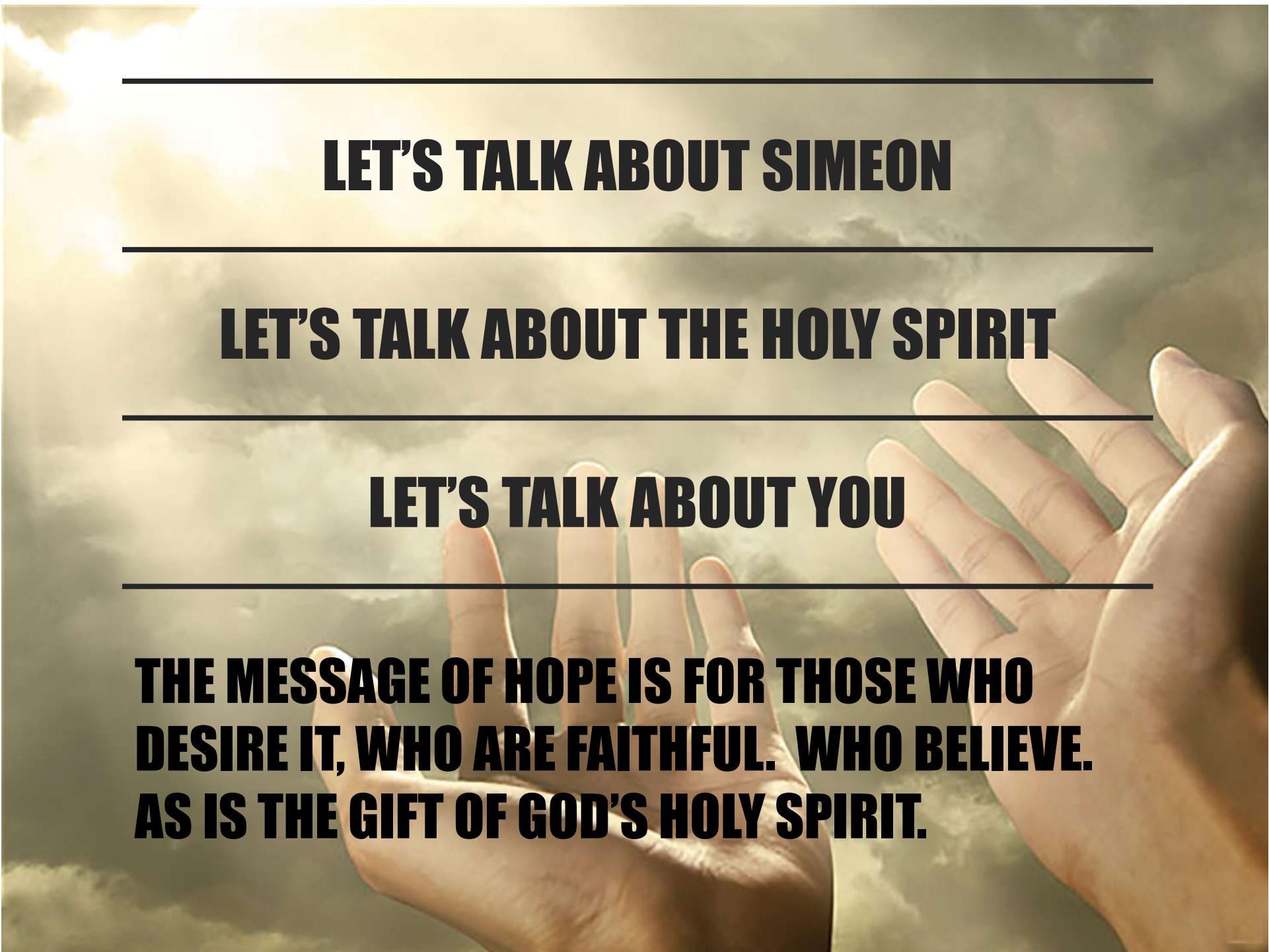
## **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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## **LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU**

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**THE MESSAGE OF HOPE IS FOR THOSE WHO  
DESIRE IT, WHO ARE FAITHFUL. WHO BELIEVE.  
AS IS THE GIFT OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT.**





**LUKE 2:27-32**

**3. ALL  
PROMISES ARE  
AMEN IN  
CHRIST – WHEN  
SIMEON MET  
JESUS**

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:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 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.”

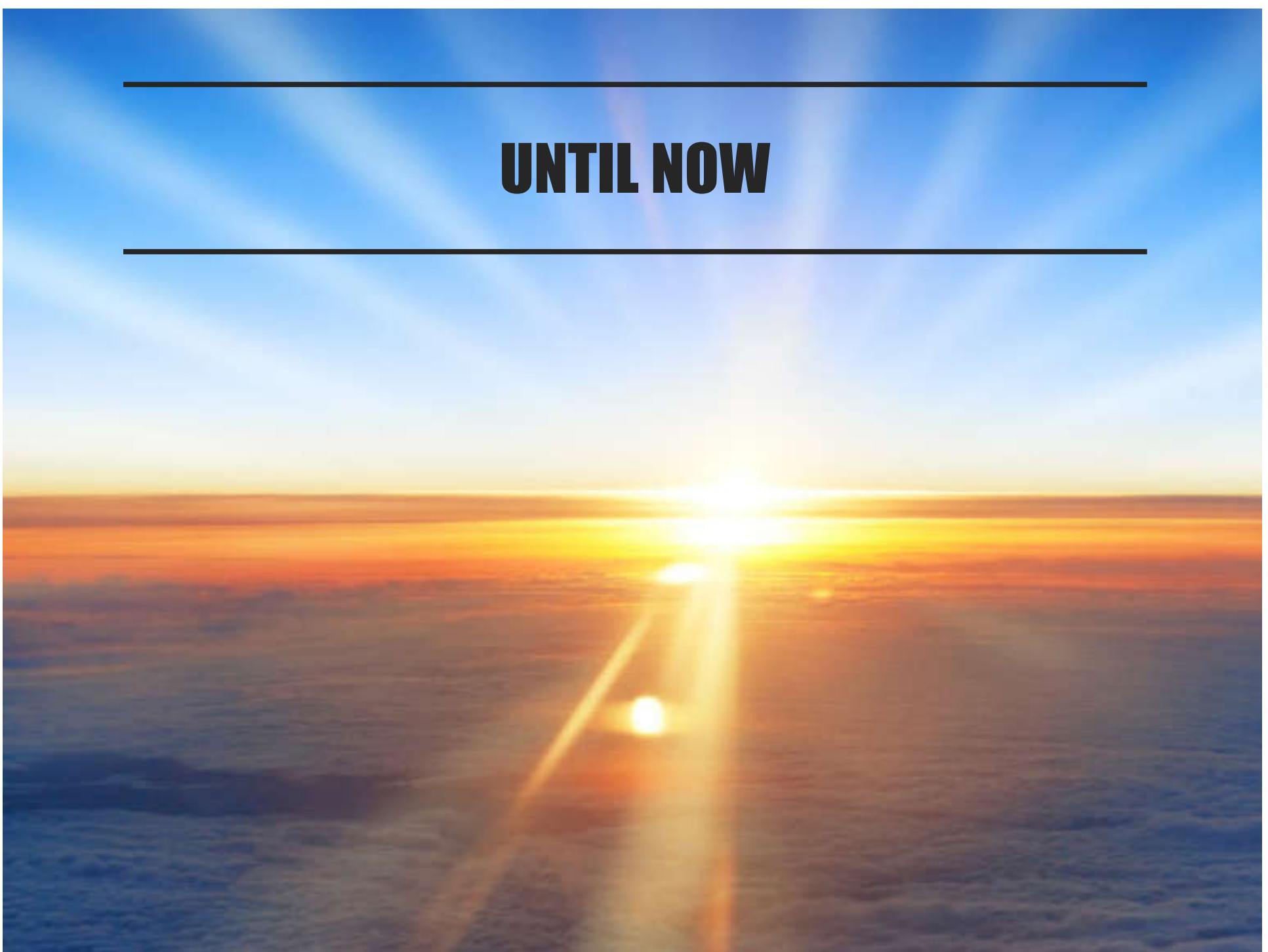
**LUKE 2:27-32**



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**UNTIL NOW**

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# UNTIL NOW

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- **Until now** everything was perfectly normal (for Simeon and Mary & Joseph), yet God was about to arrange something. (look at Luke 2:27)
  - Abraham
  - Joseph the dreamer
  - Ruth
  - David the shepherd boy
- In our lives how can this be true ... **until now** everything was perfectly normal, yet God is about to arrange something. You will never know ... (1) be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and (2) respond in obedience & faith.

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**UNTIL NOW**

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**THE PROMISE OF FAITHFULNESS**

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## UNTIL NOW

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### THE PROMISE OF FAITHFULNESS

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**WHAT IS THE PROMISE OF FAITHFULNESS ...  
you will see Jesus!**

- The promise to Simeon (Luke 2:27-28)
- You will see promise – **2 Peter 1:3-4; 2 Cor 1:20**

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## UNTIL NOW

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## THE PROMISE OF FAITHFULNESS

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### THE BLESSINGS IN THE PRAISE SONG OF SIMEON

- Final fulfilment of joy and peace (dismiss your servant in peace see v.29). **THE OUTCOME OF PROMISE** ... is (i) joy and (ii) peace and (iii) love and (iv) promise (IN JESUS)
- **THE PURPOSE OF PROMISE** . .... Seeing God's salvation v.30
  - With our own eyes. We must receive it first, and then ...
- **THE MISSION OF PROMISE**. All nations v.31
  - Light for revelation to the Gentiles



LUKE 2:33-35

## 4. FOOTNOTES: THE WORD TO JOSEPH AND MARY

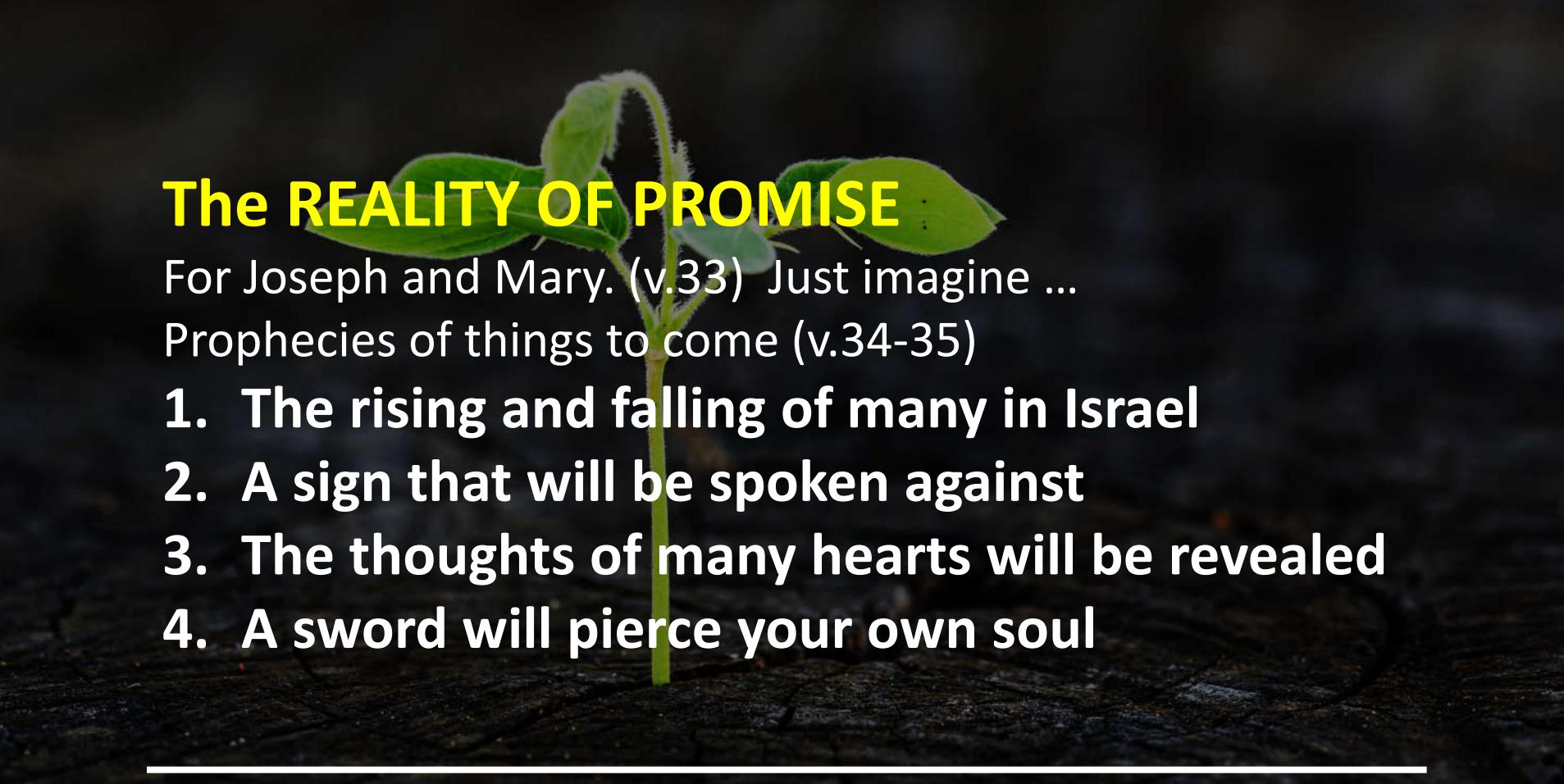
33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

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,

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

**LUKE 2:33-35**





## **The REALITY OF PROMISE**

For Joseph and Mary. (v.33) Just imagine ...

Prophecies of things to come (v.34-35)

- 1. The rising and falling of many in Israel**
  - 2. A sign that will be spoken against**
  - 3. The thoughts of many hearts will be revealed**
  - 4. A sword will pierce your own soul**
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## **THE REALITY OF PROMISE**

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# COUNTDOWN

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DAYS

HOURS

MINUTES

SECONDS

05    23    35    06

TODAY  
BEHOLD I AM COMING!

An aerial photograph showing the confluence of two rivers. The Rio Negro, on the left, has dark, almost black water. The Rio Solimões, on the right, has very brown, muddy water. The two rivers meet at a sharp angle, creating a distinct boundary between the two different colored waters. The surrounding land is lush green rainforest.

COUNTDOWN

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Rio Solimões

Rio negro

TODAY  
BEHOLD I AM COMING!

# COUNTDOWN

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Luke 18:1-8

TODAY  
BEHOLD I AM COMING!