

**SIMEON**  
(OLD MAN OF GOD)

**MEETS**

**JESUS**  
(INFANT SON OF GOD)



**SIMEON**

**“THIS CHILD IS DESTINED  
TO CAUSE THE FALLING AND  
RISING OF MANY” ...**

- **DISBELIEF**: the refusal to believe or to accept something as true; the act of disbelieving; mental rejection of something as untrue; not believing that something is true or real.

## ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS—PART 3

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

(Luke 2:34–35 NIV)

**1. Forty days after the birth of Christ, Joseph and Mary came to the temple according to the law of Moses, 2:22-24.**

- (Luke 2:22–24 NIV) 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.”

**Darrell Bock ...** JESUS WAS BORN to parents who kept the laws of Judaism. In these two scenes, they engage in the prescribed rites of purification after the birth of a child and travel to Jerusalem to present Jesus to the Lord. Such acts of piety show that Jesus has roots in pious faith. The point is significant because of Jesus’ later conflict with the Jewish religious leadership. Does he challenge them because he was raised in a home that did not honor the faith? Obviously not. Jesus came from a family that sought to honor God. [Bock, D. L. (1996). *Luke* (p. 92). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.]

**Darrell Bock ...** The journey of Jesus’ parents to the temple in Luke 2:22–24 combines three separate ceremonies as recorded in God’s law: the purification of a woman forty days after the birth of a child (Lev. 12:2–4, 6), the presentation of the firstborn to God (Ex. 13:2, 12, 16; 34:19; Num. 18:15–16), and the dedication of the firstborn into the Lord’s service (1 Sam. 1–2).<sup>1</sup> Though this dedication to service is like many others that took place in Israel for centuries, this one is unique because of the call of this child. [Ibid. (p. 92).]

**2. Simeon is introduced, 2:25-26.**

- (Luke 2:25–26 NIV) 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.

**3. Simeon meets Jesus, 2:27-32.**

- (Luke 2:27–32 NIV) 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.”

**4. Simeon blesses Joseph and Mary, 2:33-34a.**

- (Luke 2:33–34a NIV) The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them ...

**5. Simeon speaks to Mary only, 2:34b-35.**

- (Luke 2:34–35 NIV) 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.”

**6. Anna is introduced, 2:36-38.**

- (Luke 2:36–38 NIV) 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, 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.

Anna is specifically stated to be a prophet and to be very old. Details of her life, her dedication to God and her anticipation of the coming of Messiah are given. She gave thanks and openly spoke about the child Jesus. She recognized him as the redemption of Jerusalem.

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## **JESUS REFERENCED THE FALLING OF "THE MANY" THROUGHOUT HIS TEACHING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Jesus spoke of the fall of many who disbelieved by only partially believing. As we would say, "They believed what they wanted to believe about God and Jesus." So he spoke of these many who would fall because they refused to believe in the Jesus of Scripture. They refused to enter through the narrow door.

What was/is the narrow door? The narrow door is the biblical Jesus—the Jesus who God says is Jesus.

### **Jesus the only Son of God.**

- (John 3:16–18 NIV) 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. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

### **Jesus the only Way.**

- (John 14:5–7 NIV) Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

### **The narrow door in Luke ...**

- (Luke 13:22–28 NIV) Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, 24 **"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and**

**Jesus spoke of the fall of many who disbelieved by only partially believing. They believed what they wanted to believe but not what God said.**

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**They chose ... they decided ... and they would fall ... because they refused to believe in the Jesus of Scripture ... instead accepting the false reality of what they imagined to be true.**

**will not be able to.** 25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' **"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'** 26 "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' 27 **"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'** 28 "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out."

### **The narrow door in Matthew ...**

- (Matthew 7:13–23 NIV) **Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.** 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. 15 "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20

Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 **Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?'** 23 **Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'**

# DID JESUS COME TO BRING PEACE ON EARTH ... OR TO DIVIDE?

## Jesus Said ...

(Matthew 10:34–39 ESV) **Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth.** I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**WDJS**  
**What Did Jesus Say?**

## Jesus Said ...

(Luke 12:49–53 ESV) I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished!

**Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.**

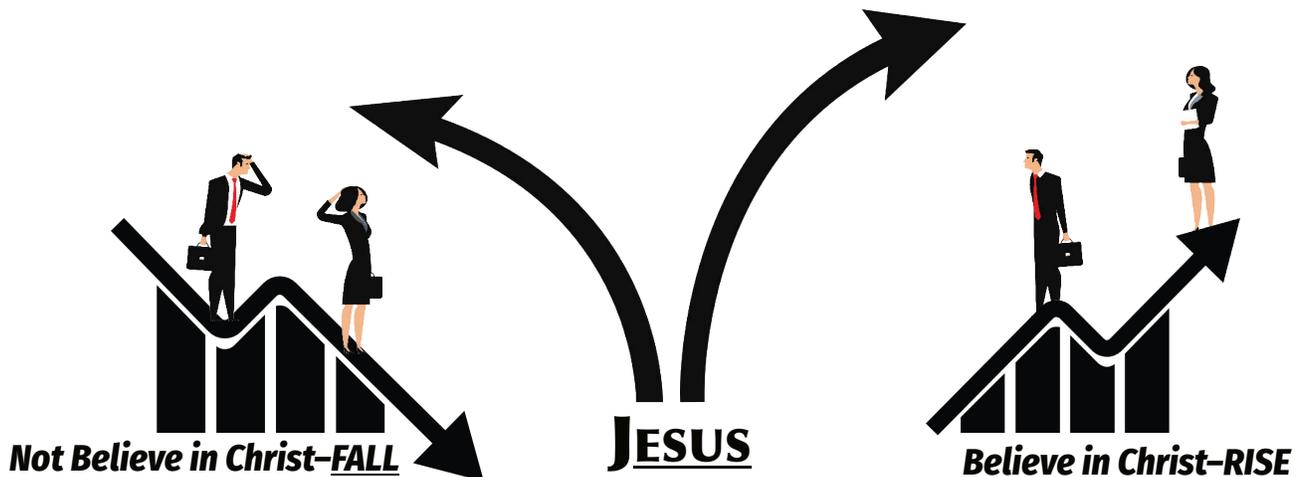
For from now on in one house there will be five **divided**, three against two and two against three. They will be **divided**, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.

## The "Heavenly Host" Said ...

(Luke 2:14 ESV) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace **among those with whom he is pleased!**

Some translations unfortunately poorly communicate the last phrase in Luke 2:14 causing confusion rather than clarifying those who will receive the announced peace from God—only those with whom God is pleased, only those who believe in his Son and receive the gift of eternal life.

Jesus's answer to the question in the verses above removes all doubt as to God's intent and promise.



**JESUS IS THE GREAT WATERSHED**