



# THIS CHILD—THE FALL AND RISING OF MANY



PART ONE: THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS THROUGH SIMEON THE DIVISIVE NATURE JESUS'S MISSION.

1. Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to Jerusalem to present him in obedience to the Law of the Lord, 2:22-24.
  - (Luke 2:22–24 ESV) **And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses,** they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”
2. Simeon, a man in Jerusalem, took Jesus in his arms and blessed God, 2:25-33.
  - (Luke 2:25–33 ESV) **Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon,** and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 **And 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 do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 **he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,** 29 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen **your salvation** 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 **a light for revelation** to the Gentiles, **and for glory to your people** Israel.” 33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

3. Simeon then blessed Mary and Joseph, 2:34-35.



- (Luke 2:34–35 ESV) And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, **this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed** 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), **so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.**”

A. Through Simeon the Spirit revealed the authoritative, God-ordained, divisive impact that Jesus would have in Israel—people would fall or rise because of him.

- (Isaiah 8:13–15 ESV) **But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. 14 And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 15 And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken;** they shall be snared and taken.

B. The Holy Spirit through Simeon revealed that the divisive nature of Jesus—his Person and work—would transcend the norms of this world and would be a powerful sign of his Messiahship.

**“Love him or hate him”** ... is true in regard to the Lord Jesus like no other.



- (John 15:18–19 ESV) **If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own;** but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, **therefore the world hates you.**

2:34 ... “and for a sign that is opposed” ... The Jesus that the Spirit reveals here through Simeon and throughout Scripture distinguishes Jesus as one who

**JESUS IS ... THE FALL AND RISING OF MANY—THE FIRE-CASTING, FAMILY DIVIDING, SWORD-WIELDING, SOUL-PIERCING, THOUGHT-REVEALING SON OF MARY ...**

provokes contradiction and hostility like no other. This transcendent (beyond the range of normal) opposition to him testifies as to who he is and why he came to this earth. The Son of God taking on a human body and living in this world of sin and darkness presents us with the most extreme example possible of the battle between right versus wrong, light versus darkness, good versus evil.

- (John 3:19–20 ESV) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world,

and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

- C. The Holy Spirit through Simeon revealed to Mary specifically the anguish of soul and the revealing of thoughts that would eventually come from the divisive nature of the person and work of this Child.

## PART TWO: JESUS AFFIRMS AND EXPOUNDS UPON THE DIVISIVE NATURE OF HIS MISSION.

### 1. **JESUS WARNS AND INSTRUCTS ...** The blessed servant is the one who is faithfully living and serving in view of the reality of the master's return.

- (Luke 12:43–46 ESV) Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 44 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. 45 But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.

### 2. **THE PURPOSE OF HIS MISSION ...** to radically disrupt our lives so that we will be ready for his return.

- (Luke 12:49–53 ESV) I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! 50 I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! 51 Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. 52 For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. 53 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.

### 3. **HIS CLEAR INTENT ...** to separate us from our deadly attachment to this world so that we may follow him and not lose our lives.

- (Matthew 10:32–39 ESV) So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. 34 Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 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. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 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. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

### 4. **HIS WEAPON OF CHOICE ...** is the living, active word of God that pierces our innermost being and reveals our foolishness to the saving of our soul.

- (Hebrews 4:11–12 ESV) Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
  - A. He uses the word to keep us from falling in our disobedience and not entering his rest.
  - B. He uses the word to shatter our ideas of peace and love and life that we might believe in him.