

MARY, THE WOMAN

The biblical and historical background for John 19:25-30 is Mary's encounter with Simeon during her motherhood purification rite with Jesus in Luke 2:21-38.

Days of Purification (40 days)

“And when the days of purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.” (Luke 2:22-24; Lev.12:1-8)

Simeon

“And behold, there as 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. 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. (Luke 2:25-27)

Nunc Dimitis - permission to depart in peace

“Now Lord, Thou dost let thy bondservant depart in peace, according to Thy word; For my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all people, ‘a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.’” (Luke 2:29-32; Isa.9:2; 42:6) [Messianic]

Simeon's Eulogy

“And Simeon blessed (eulogeo) 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 - - and a sword will pierce even your own soul - - to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed (Matt.16:13).’” (Luke 2:34-35; **2:11**; Heb.4:12)

The Greek word for sword is (rhomphaia). It was a large sword that the world used to conquer others prior to the Roman macharia sword. This sword was the weapon of choice of both King Saul and Goliath but not David's in 1 Sam.17:39, 51. **David's weapon of choice was the LORD** – “This day the Lord will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you.” (1 Sam.17:46) he used Goliath's sword (1 Sam.22:10) [priests of Nob]

How big a hole would this prophetic sword leave in Mary that only God can fill?

Cradle to Cross

Simeon prepared Mary at her purification rite with baby Jesus for what His destiny in the redemptive plan of God would mean to her personally: “**And a sword will pierce even your own soul.**”

“Therefore the soldiers did these things. But there were standing by the cross of Jesus His mother. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, **He said to His mother, ‘woman, behold your Son!’**” (John 19:25-26) [Title for our lesson]

“But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.” (John 19:34) **When the soldiers spear pierced the side of Jesus on the cross, the prophetic sword had already pierced Mary's soul.**

<p>This lesson will study FOUR aspects of Mary, the Woman. The spiritual significance of the setting and the prophetic statement made by Simeon to Mary.</p>
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1. Mary's purification rite of motherhood was part of III Codex of the Mosaic Law (shadow Christology) given to the priest-nation of Israel. Its roots went back to the Exodus from Egypt.

Purification rite was used with four categories of Leviticus uncleanness: Food, Death, Motherhood, and Bodily conditions (Lev.11-15).

“The regulations with respect to defilements and their corresponding purifications were not prescription framed with a view to the cultivation of cleanliness, tidiness, and decency – not merely sanitary regulations – but they were of a religious nature, having as their object the cultivation of holiness and spiritual life.” (Unger Bible Dictionary, pg.1124)

Mary's purification rite involved water and sacrificial offering. It is interesting that purification water pots were used in the first miracle of Jesus at Cana (John 2:6).

The key doctrine in purification was holiness.

“For I am the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt, to be your God; thus you shall be holy for I am holy.” (Lev.11:45) “To make a distinction between the unclean and the clean, and between the edible creature and the creature which is not to be eaten?” (Lev.11:47)

“In conclusion, it may be observed that the distinctive feature in the Mosaic rites of purification is their expiatory character.” (Unger, pg.1125)

2. Pharisaical legalism took shadow Christology out of the purification rite through false teachings (Mark 7:1-13; John 3:25; Matt.23:25-28; Titus 1:15-16; 1 Tim.4:3-5). They made it spirituality by works (Gal.2:16).

3. The mother's purification rite took place in the Court of Women.

Jewish women carried the curse as well as the hope of redemption (Gen.3:16; 1 Tim.2:14-15). Paul connects all women with Mary in the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of world (1 Tim.2:14; Luke 2:11).

The mother's uncleanness involved two parts:

- The first part of her uncleanness was seven days until the male child was circumcised (Lev.12:1-3).
- The second part of her uncleanness was 33 days before entering temple
 - (Lev.12: 4-5) “When the days of her purification were complete, for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the doorway of the tent of meeting, a one year old lamb for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. Then he shall offer it before the Lord and make atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, whether a male or female.” (Lev.12:6-7; 5:7, 11; Luke 2:24)

The purification offering temporarily restored the mother from the woman's curse of AOS (Gen.3:16) and to fellowship with the Lord (Lev.11:45).

4. The one offering of Jesus Christ on the cross would give purification atonement once and forever to everyone who believes the gospel (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:3-4) (Heb.1:3; 9:8-15; 10:1-2, 10; Titus 2: 14) (Rom.14:14, 20; Acts 10:12-16, 28, 34-35; 11:6-10; 15:9-11; John 13:1-17).

God gave Mary 30 years to prepare her soul for the prophetic sword to pierce her soul.

- **Will the word of God be able to carry her through this traumatic experience in life?** (Ps.107:20)
- **Will the word of God be able to heal the huge wound left in her soul?** (Ps.147:3; Deut.32:39; Isa.53:5)

WHAT ABOUT YOU THIS CHRISTMAS?