

Presentation of the Lord in the Temple Feb 2

MALACHI 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord God:

Lo, I am sending my messenger
to prepare the way before me;
And suddenly there will come to the temple
the Lord whom you seek,
And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire.
Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.
But who will endure the day of his coming?
And who can stand when he appears?
For he is like the refiner's fire,
or like the fuller's lye.
He will sit refining and purifying silver,
and he will purify the sons of Levi,
Refining them like gold or like silver
that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord.
Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem
will please the Lord,
as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

PSALM 24:7, 8, 9, 10

R. Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in! Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Who is this king of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle. Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in! Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

Who is this king of glory?
The Lord of hosts; he is the king of glory. Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

HEBREWS 2:14-18

Was NOT written by Paul. We don't know who did.
It is an "essay" in the form of a "letter", a common ancient literary device.

Since the children share in blood and flesh,
Jesus likewise shared in them,
that through death he might destroy the one
who has the power of death, that is, the Devil,
and free those who through fear of death
had been subject to slavery all their life.

Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters
in every way, . . . (our blood and flesh)

Surely he did not help angels [who have no flesh or blood]
but rather the descendants of Abraham;
therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way,

that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God
to expiate the sins of the people.
Because he himself was tested through what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

Xt was 'tested' like you early
Xtians are being tested, so XT knows
what you are going through.

ALLELUIA

LK 2:32

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

A light of revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.

R. ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

GOSPEL

LUKE 2:22-40 OR 2:22-32

When the days were completed for their purification
according to the law of Moses,
Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem
to present him to the Lord,
just as it is written in the law of the Lord,
Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,
and to offer the sacrifice of
a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,
in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

The concept of a presentation at
the temple is probably derived
from 1 Samuel:24-28, where
Hannah, remembering God's gift
to her, offers the child Samuel:
"Now I give him to the Lord."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.
This man was righteous and devout,
awaiting the consolation of Israel,
and the ****Holy Spirit** was upon him.
It had been revealed to him ****by the Holy Spirit**
that he should not see death
before he had seen the *Christ of the Lord.* = *Messiah* of the Lord.
He came ****in the Spirit** into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus
to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,
he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;
and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

*"Behold, this child is destined
for the fall and rise of many in Israel,
and to be a sign that will be contradicted
and you yourself a sword will pierce
so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

There was also a prophetess, Anna,
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.
She was advanced in years,
having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,
and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.
She never left the temple,
but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.
And coming forward at that very time,
she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child
to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord,
they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him.

Simeon and Anna were IN THE TEMPLE
that is, in the *Presence of God*--
[in this case, the Gospel says
** . . . IN THE SPIRIT OF GOD].
So they, more than most who were
in the Temple,
actually experienced and felt
GOD'S PRESENCE.

They melted back into the ORDINARY
because we all 'grow'
in wisdom and favor (GRACE) in the
ordinary things
of life.
Mother Teresa said: Holiness is
not doing
extraordinary things, but in doing
ordinary things with
EXTRA-ordinary LOVE.