

TOTALLY SATISFIED

Luke 2:21-38

C. S. Lewis concluded that there are only three alternatives concerning Jesus:

1. Liar
2. Lunatic
3. God

How do you decide which He is? Look at the evidence!

Luke attempts to settle the issue for people who *want* to know the truth about Jesus.

He looks at the evidence that Jesus is the Christ. His conclusion:

*There is plenty of evidence for anyone who wants to know the truth,
that Jesus is Messiah, the Son of God, and that we should trust Him!*

Some years ago I shared Christ with Tom—a skeptic, who was honestly seeking the truth. For Tom, the Bible was written by religious men who wanted to convince others of their religious prejudices, so they *invented* stories.

When I tried to use fulfilled prophecy to demonstrate that the Bible is true, he asked, “How do we know that these O.T. prophecies weren’t written *after* Jesus did the things that were *supposedly* foretold. I didn’t get anywhere trying to answer his questions.

Eventually I tried a different approach. It wasn’t long after the 6 Day War, in June of 1967. So I showed him Ezekiel’s prophecy that Egypt and Russia would some day unite to attack Israel. Just a few years before that, *no one* thought Israel would come back into existence; that alliance would have been highly unlikely.

He turned white: “But if that happens, it will be the end of the world! There’s no way we could avoid nuclear war!” I explained that God also told how it would come out. The world wouldn’t be destroyed.

He had no response, but I couldn’t convince him. Yet I sensed he was honestly seeking the truth. A number of years later, I heard that Tom’s search for truth had brought him to Christ.

There’s *no lack of evidence* for anyone who wants to know the truth about Jesus.

In the first four chapters of Luke, he identifies 38 distinct evidences that Jesus is Messiah.

EVIDENCE OF MESSIAH’S ARRIVAL 1:5-4:13

Testimony from Gabriel’s revelation to Zechariah 1:5-25

Testimony from Gabriel’s revelation to Mary 1:26-38

Testimony from Mary’s visit to Elizabeth 1:39-56

Testimony from John’s birth 1:57-80

Testimony from Jesus’ birth 2:1-20

TESTIMONY FROM JESUS’ PRESENTATION 2:21-38 Two distinct events:

Jesus’ Circumcision 2:21

If Dec. 25 *was* the date of Jesus’ birth, His circumcision = Jan. 2

That’s when they announced His name:

His name had been given by Gabriel to both Mary and Joseph.

His name would be Jesus <= Joshua => “*salvation from the Lord*”

Jesus’ Presentation 2:22-24

2nd event would have occurred Feb. 4—actually two events occurred:

Purification ceremony was performed 33 days later, for a male.

Then they presented a sacrifice for purification.

Pentecost: “It was a perpetual, ceremonial reminder that all are born in sin. Only blood could remove the uncleanness. So they went to Jerusalem to present the required offering for purification. Even though this child was different, because Christ had no sin, **they fulfilled the law completely**, so no one could point a finger at this child as unclean.

Their humble state is demonstrated as they took the poor man’s offering.

Those who could afford it offered a lamb as a burnt offering and a pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering.

Those who couldn’t afford a lamb took two pigeons or two turtledoves, one as a burnt offering; one a sin offering.

Joseph and Mary took 2 turtledoves or 2 pigeons.

2nd thing the law required: **presentation of the firstborn.**

Reminder of the Passover, when God delivered Israel from Egypt.

Ex. 13: firstborn male is dedicated to God: “*he belongs to God!*”

In Num. 3, God exchanged Levites for the firstborn. Each family “redeemed” *their* firstborn, as a reminder that *they* belong to God.

So Joseph and Mary went to Jerusalem for her purification and to “redeem” their firstborn.

TWO WITNESSES: (affirm Luke’s main point)

***Those who are seeking the truth
are convinced of Who Jesus is!***

Simeon’s Testimony 2:25-35 25-32

Simeon was a godly person. 25

His exemplary lifestyle—He was “righteous” and “rightly religious.”

Not just religious! “Devout” means “rightly religious.” —used only of people who were genuinely saved—seeking the coming of Messiah.

His search for Messiah—He was looking for the “consolation of Israel.” => Messiah (=> the encouragement, the One “coming alongside to help.”)

His Spirit-controlled life—The Holy Spirit was upon him.

God promises Simeon that he will see Messiah before he dies. 26

The Spirit led him to the temple. 27

This wasn't Simeon's thing—God led him there.

When Simeon saw Jesus, He broke out in praise to God. 27-28

Significant theme in Luke

—*Those seeking Messiah, praise God when they come face-to-face with Jesus.*

Only those who *aren't* looking for Him—don't *want* to meet Him—reject Him.

Now Simeon is ready to die!

He is TOTALLY SATISFIED! He wants nothing else out of life.

Wiersbe: “Everyone assumes he was an old man. Why do we assume he is old?”

‘Only old people look forward to death this way!’”

Wise unbeliever: “You Christians, for people who say you are looking forward to being with the Lord, you sure spend a lot of effort trying to avoid it!”

Simeon's priorities are straight. He had one goal in life.

God fulfilled his dream as He promised.

Why do we have to reserve this kind of qualities for old people?

Simeon understands who Jesus is. 30

“My eyes have seen the One Who is Your salvation.”

Ironsides: “If you would ever see God's salvation, you must see the Lord Jesus.”

“There is salvation in no other for there is no other name given among men whereby we must be saved.”

Simeon proclaims **TWO SHOCKING SURPRISES** to those listening:

1. He would come to reveal God to pagans! 32

He would be a light to reveal God to Gentiles—to us pagans!

He mentions Gentiles first—they saw the light before Israel did!

Israel always thought THEY would come first.

He's the Shekinah, the glory of God Israel had missed for centuries!

He's the One Ezekiel and Haggai promised would return to the temple.

“He came to His own and they didn't receive Him, but to those who did receive Him, to the believers, to those that Israel considered rejects—2nd class citizens—to those He gave power to become God's sons.”

2. He would be rejected and killed. 34-35

Israel's rejection was no surprise to God—it was part of His plan.

Some would rise because of Him; some would fall because of Him.

He'd become basis for distinguishing between the people of Israel.

Peter said He'd either be the tripping stone—that causes people to fall—or the foundation stone on which they would build.

He'd become the symbol of people's opposition to God and His plan.

Opposition to God would be *defined* by what they do to Him.

By rejecting Him, Israel would demonstrate what's in their heart.

What's *already* in their heart is revealed by their response to Him!

Mary would suffer because of His death.

The contrast: between those who accept Him and reject Him:

Simeon was looking for Messiah and recognized Him.

Israel wasn't looking for Him; therefore, they reject Him.

Simeon's response points to **TWO IMPORTANT CONCLUSIONS**:

1. The person who wants to please God recognizes Jesus.

2. The person who is looking for Messiah recognizes Jesus.

Anna's Testimony 2:36-38

She's known as a faithful follower of God who walked with Him.

One of the impressive things about this woman: *she never retired!*

Anna *kept serving God faithfully*, in public worship and private prayer.

She also recognized Him. [That leads to the 3rd conclusion:]

3. The person who dedicates her life to serving God recognizes Jesus.

After she sees Him, ***you can't keep her quiet!***

First she talks to God about Him, thanking God.

Then she shares it, but only with those she knows WANT to hear—to those seeking the One Who would redeem God's people.

Implication: God reveals the truth to those who want to know it!

Matt. 7:7-8

John 7:17 (6:45; 8:47)

John 7:37-38 If you're thirsty, He will satisfy that thirst!

THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR THE TRUTH
AND WHO TRUST IN CHRIST
ARE TOTALLY SATISFIED!

God fulfills the desire of their heart.

They weren't looking for money.

They weren't looking for possessions.

They weren't looking for pleasure.

They weren't looking for happiness.

They were looking for the fulfillment of God's plan.

"His will on earth as in heaven"

Therefore, they were totally satisfied,

when they came face-to-face with Jesus!

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN LIFE?

Have you found it? Are you satisfied?

1. Those who haven't recognized evidence—who've never trusted Christ—

There's no lack of evidence—it's abundant.

But no one can convince you, if you don't WANT to know the truth!

The key issue is what are YOU going to do about the evidence?

2. Those who recognize that Jesus is Messiah and have trusted Him, . . .

- 1) The evidence is sufficient!

Those *looking for truth* recognize it.

Therefore, we don't need to be ashamed to share the truth.

- 2) People wanting Him more than anything else were **totally satisfied**—they weren't disappointed!

What are YOU living for?

It's not that God always gives us what WE want!

Christmas morning the kids get up, look under the tree and check out the presents. You know how excited they get when they find exactly what they're looking for?

God has no greater delight than satisfying His children's dreams

. . . when OUR dreams agree with His!

Ps. 37:4 "Delight in the Lord, . . .

He will give you the desires of your heart!"

When our greatest desire is to please God . . .

When we are looking for the fulfillment of God's plan . . .

When we dedicate our life entirely to God to do whatever HE wants . . .

Then, He gives us the desire of our heart!

Then we, like Simeon and Anna, will be **totally satisfied**.