

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Luke 2: 22-40

22. And when the days of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, that is, thirty-three days following the circumcision of Jesus, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord, and to be examined by the doctors to ascertain that the law had been followed. And lo! There was no waiting list.
23. (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that first openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord, but as for the female, they do not count;)
24. And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, three French hens, four calling birds, or two young pigeons, or a nice silk scarf and some linen drawers.
25. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was a bit strange even though he was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him which caused him to have all manner of visions and cry prophetic utterances, often during the quiet times in the services.
26. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ, the Messiah, and he was growing tired of waiting and did wander the temple looking for a sign.
27. And driven by spiritual urges he came this day into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law he had a revelation.
28. Then taking the child from Mary he blessed God. And Mary said, "What do you think you are doing with my child, give him back." But Simeon ignored her so that Joseph was angered. But Simeon held the child aloft so that Joseph was afraid to clutch at him, and he said,
29. Lord, now, finally, lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:
30. For mine eyes, which have seen many things in their time, some of them unrepeatable, have now seen thy salvation,
31. Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, or at least the ones here;
32. For now here is a light to lighten the Gentiles, and a beacon to shine upon lands far distant, and along with this, one who will be the glory of thy people Israel.
33. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him and did desire him to repeat them for they desired to write it all down, but Simeon handed the child back,
34. And he blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against, and to be an emblem which people shall wear upon their breasts and hang on their walls and emblazon on their altar coverings;
35. Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also, (I speak figuratively), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And Joseph was even more troubled, for he had many thoughts he had kept to himself.
36. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;
37. And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. She had a habit of wandering around praying aloud, selling postcards, and uttering prophecies at all and sundry.

38. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And she began approaching all who were coming in to the temple for the services so that finally the temple guards had to restrain her.
39. And when Mary and Joseph had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, and handed the priests the two young pigeons they had purchased in the Outer Court, they tarried not and did not watch the sacrifice, but returned with haste into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.
40. And the child grew, and all who knew him thought him a bit touched, for he waxed strong in spirit, was filled with wisdom, and his speech and thoughts were not those of a normal boy: and the grace of God was upon him.