



Joseph and Mary listened in surprise to what Simeon had just said. Then, Simeon blessed them with a special blessing. And to Mary, Simeon said, “This child will encourage the believers. And at the same time he will cause problems for those who don’t believe. Many will speak against him. And that will hurt you, as if you had been stabbed. But always remember how special he is.”

A very old woman, named Anna, who was a prophetess, was also in the temple. Anna had been a widow for most of her life. And day and night she was at the temple worshipping God, fasting and praying. When she saw Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, she approached them. She recognized Jesus instantly. “This is the child we’ve been waiting for God to send us,” said Anna. “Praise God He has sent the One he promised to send! Praise God! I have to tell everyone about him!”

Again, Joseph and Mary were surprised. An angel had spoken to them telling them that Jesus was the Son of God.

When he was born, shepherds came from their fields and told of a choir of angels that had announced to them that the birth of Jesus would bring “good news” to all people.

Now Simeon and Anna had recognized that Jesus was the One whom God had promised. Joseph and Mary presented baby Jesus before God, and offered their sacrifices. Then they returned to their home. They didn’t understand God’s whole plan regarding the Savior. But they had much to think about as they watched Jesus grow to be a strong, healthy, intelligent and good man.

— Luke 2:21-40

The True Meaning of Christmas

Use the vowels a,e,i,o, and u to complete the verse below.

Th_ W_r_d b_c_m_ fl_sh _nd m_d_ h_s dw_ll_ng
_m_ng _s. W_h_v_ s__n h_s gl_ry, th_ gl_ry _f th_
n _nd _nly S_n, wh_ c_m_ fr_m th_ F_th_r, f_ll _f
gr_c_ _nd tr_th.

(J_hn 1:14)