

Following God's Laws

Leviticus 12 & Exodus 13

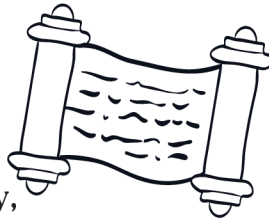
Old
Testament
Story Time



When Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt and into the desert, he was not only leading them out of a physical place but also from living in a state of slavery. For over 400 years the people of Israel lived and worked as slaves in Egypt. Now they were free, but what did that mean for them exactly?

God allowed His people to wander in the desert for forty years in order to give them lots of time to learn how to live as free men and women and to trust God. The most important part of their freedom was having the ability to properly worship the Lord God. When they lived in slavery they were always working, and they did not have the ability and freedom to set aside time to properly worship God. Now they had lots of time, but they first had to be taught the proper way to live in accordance with God's will.

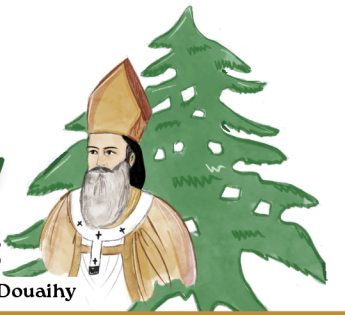
Therefore, the Lord God gave many instructions to Moses to pass along to the people. As the Israelites wandered for forty years in the desert, they had lots of time to learn these new laws. The most important law God gave to Moses was the Ten Commandments. While the Ten Commandments set the foundation for their lives, God also gave Moses other specific laws and regulations for the people to follow.



One law was for mothers after giving birth to their child. If a mother gave birth to a boy, she was to wait 40 days and then present herself at the Temple for a ritual purification. When she went to the Temple, she had to bring an offering of a lamb and a turtledove. If she could not afford a lamb, then she was to bring two turtledoves.

God also instructed Moses that every firstborn child of the Israelite people was to be consecrated to the Lord. This meant the firstborn was to be presented to the Lord as someone set aside as sacred to God.

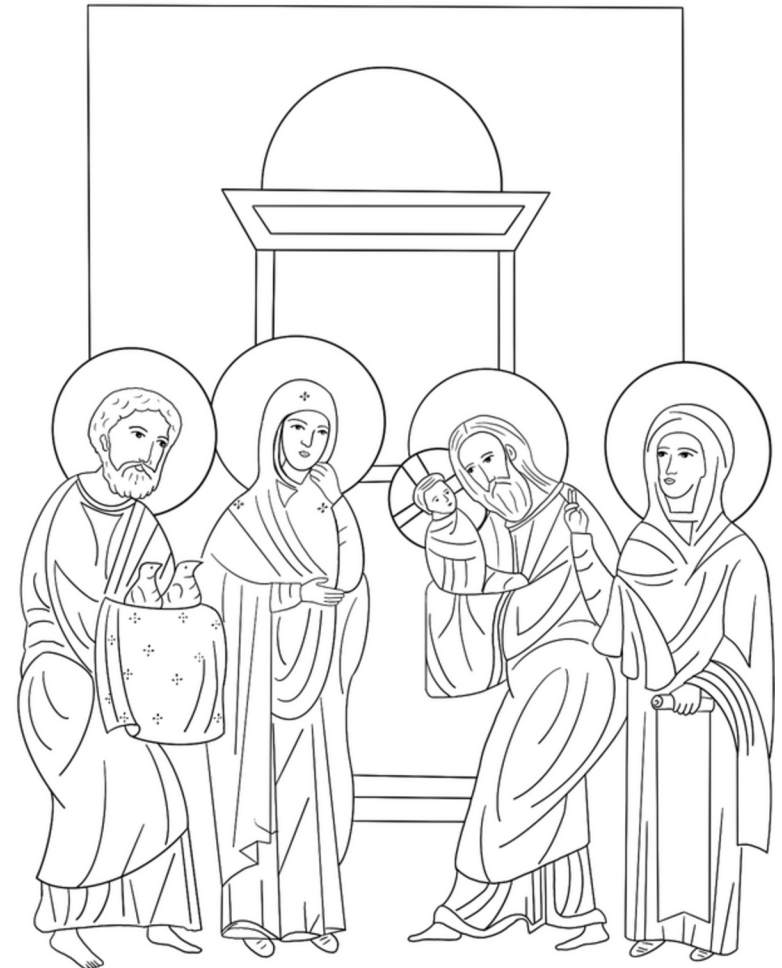
Cedar Kids



The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy

Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Vol 1, No.19

February 2nd



Simeon, the faithful one,
held the Son of God, made man,
whom his parents brought this day
to the temple of the Lord.

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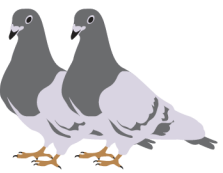
Gospel Corner

Luke
2:22-35

A few weeks ago, eight days after Christmas, we celebrated the "Circumcision and Naming of Jesus." Today we are celebrating the rest of that story.

In the Old Testament, God instructed Moses to have the Israelites bring their newborn firstborn baby boys to the Temple to be presented to the Lord. His parents were also to bring a gift, or offering, to sacrifice to the Lord.

So out of obedience to the law, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, along with a sacrifice of two turtle doves.



When they arrived at the temple, they were greeted by Simeon. Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. As soon as Simeon saw Jesus, he held him in his arms and exclaimed to the Lord, "Now, Master, You may let Your servant go in peace, according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation..."



Just as God had prompted the wisemen to follow the star, sent angels to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth, caused John to leap inside his mother's room at the approach of Jesus in Mary's womb, He also told Simeon exactly who Jesus was and Simeon praised God at His arrival. All of these people were so excited to be with Jesus.

Let's pray and ask God to allow us to always be just as thrilled as these people were to spend time with Jesus! (By the way: Jesus is thrilled to spend time with YOU!)

Did you know?

Qoorbono is the Syriac word for "Offering"

In the Bible, the words "oblation", "offering", "gift", or "sacrifice" are used to describe anything presented to God in worship, or for the service of the Temple or priest.

In the Maronite Church, we use the Syriac word *Qoorbono*, which means Offering, to describe our Sunday worship service. The bread and wine are offered in the service to become the Body and Blood of Jesus, who sacrificed His life for us.

What you can do

When you arrive for Divine Liturgy, or if you can stay a few minutes after it ends, sit quietly and look at the Tabernacle where the true presence of Jesus is. While you look, have a silent conversation with Jesus. He can hear you and He *wants* to hear from you. Just tell Him your thoughts, feelings, worries, or dreams.



Alphabet Review

How many words can you come up with from today's Gospel and Old Testament sections that begin with each letter of the alphabet? "S" is completed as an example.

- | | | |
|----------|----------|------------------|
| A. _____ | J. _____ | S. <i>Simeon</i> |
| B. _____ | K. _____ | T. _____ |
| C. _____ | L. _____ | U. _____ |
| D. _____ | M. _____ | V. _____ |
| E. _____ | N. _____ | W. _____ |
| F. _____ | O. _____ | X. _____ |
| G. _____ | P. _____ | Y. _____ |
| H. _____ | Q. _____ | Z. _____ |
| I. _____ | R. _____ | |