

FEELS LIKE

J  Y

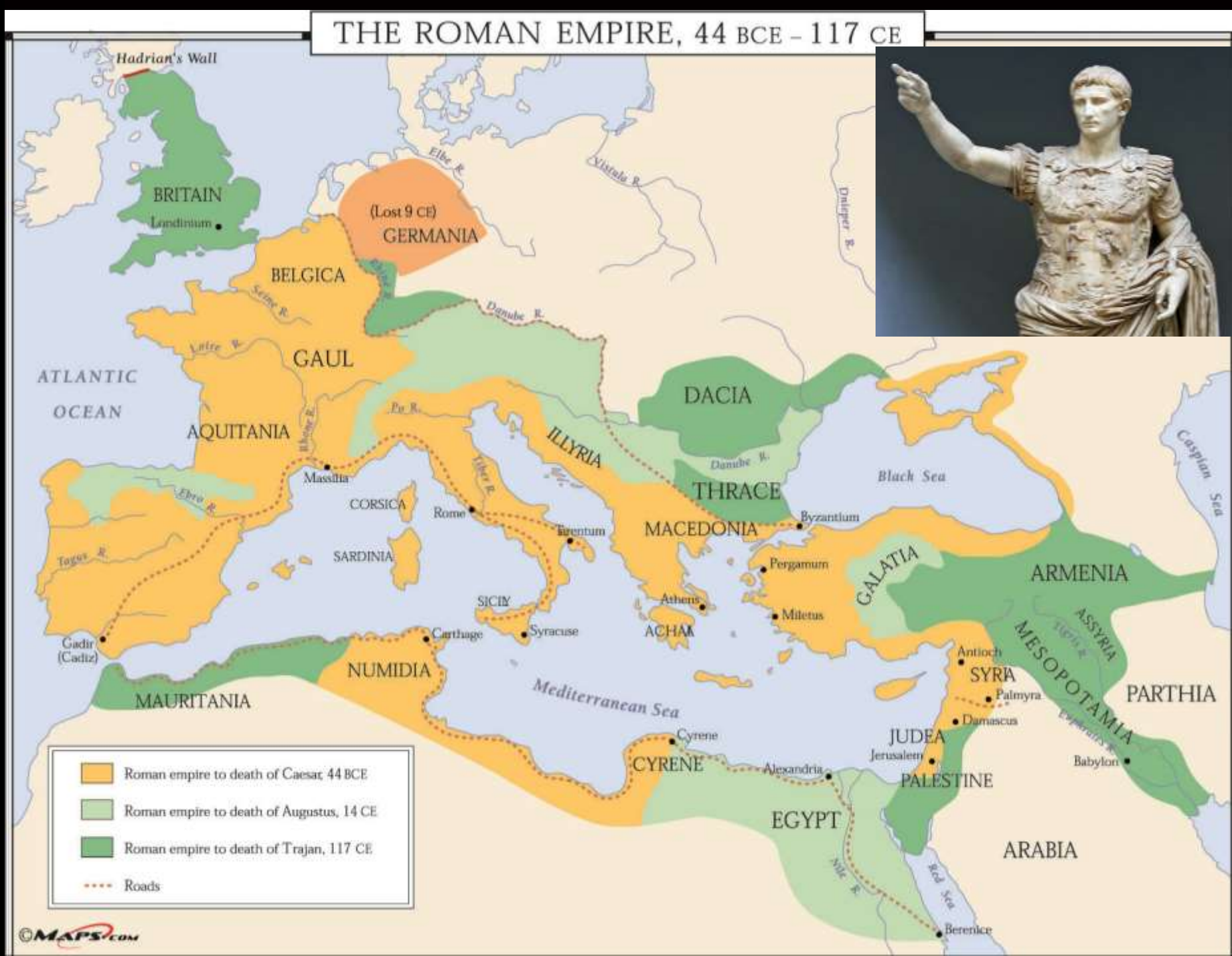


Joy is Found in a Promise Fulfilled

Luke 2



Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus [Octavian, first Roman emperor; reigned 27 BC - AD 14], that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. Luke 2:1



This was the
first census
taken while
Quirinius was
governor of
Syria.
Luke 2:2



And everyone
was on his way
to register for
the census, each
to his own city.
Luke 2:3



Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

Luke 2:4-5



While they [Joseph and Mary] were there [in Bethlehem], the days were completed for her to give birth. And she [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:6-7



The angel previously said to Joseph...

“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus (יֵשׁוּעַ Yeshua), for He will save (יַשֵּׁעַ yasha) His people from their sins.”

Matthew 1:21



And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision [*brit milah*], His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Luke 2:21

Jesus Ἰησοῦς (Jesus) is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Yeshua (ישוע) which means “salvation”



The **brit milah** בְּרִית מִילָה is the ceremony of circumcision in Judaism. According to Genesis chapter 17, God commanded Abraham to be circumcised, an act to be followed by his male descendants on the eighth day of life, symbolizing the covenant between God and the Jewish people. Today, it is generally performed by a *mohel* on the eighth day after the infant's birth and is followed by a celebratory meal known as *seudat mitzvah*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brit_milah



And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed [day #41 after the baby's birth], they [Mary and Joseph] brought Him up to Jerusalem [from Bethlehem] to present Him to the Lord [*pidyon-haben*, redemption of a firstborn son, see Exodus 13] (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Luke 2:22-24 (see Leviticus 12)

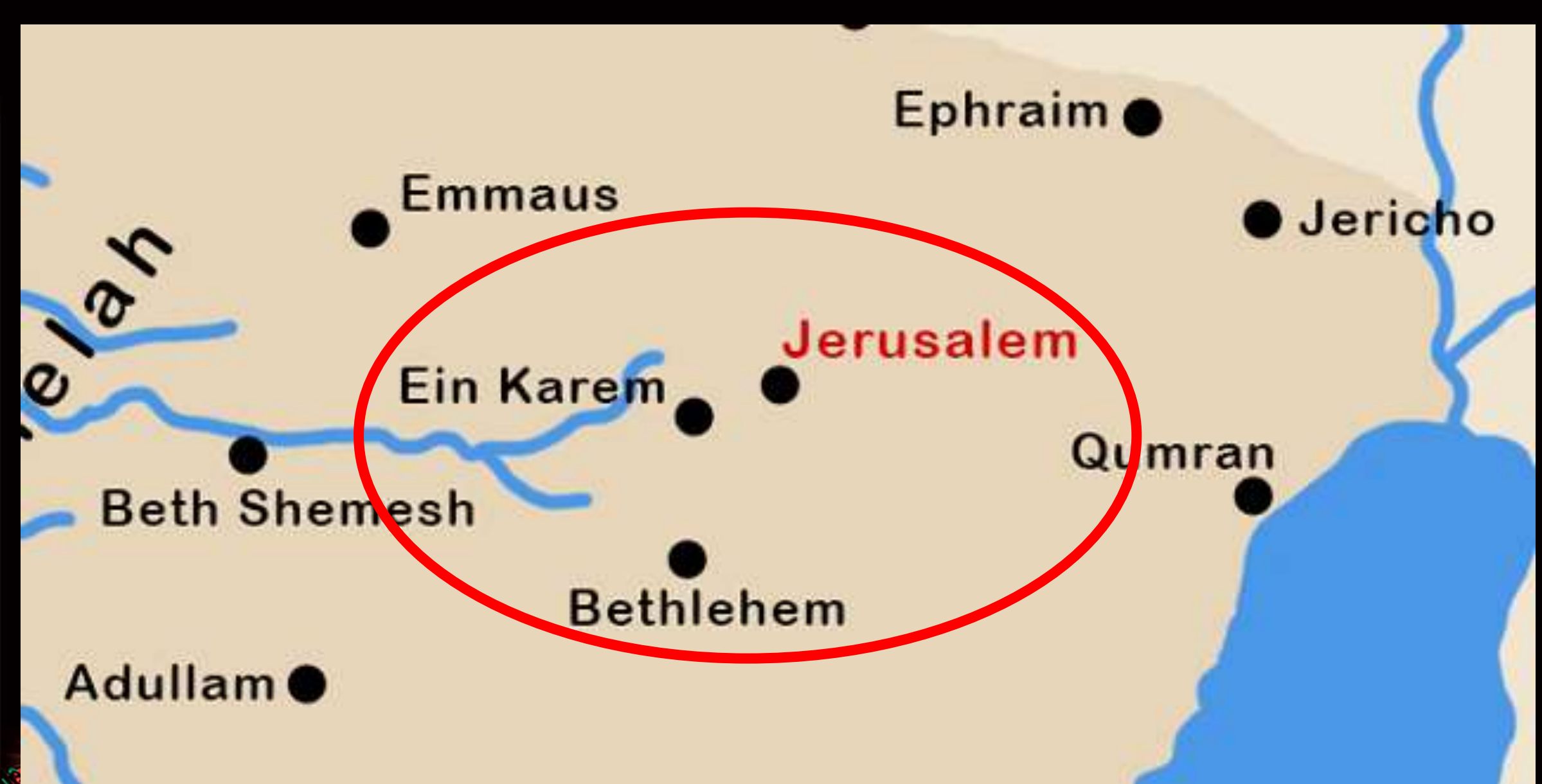
Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: 'When the days of her purification are completed, for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the doorway of the tent of meeting a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering. Then he shall offer it before the Lord and make atonement for her, and she shall be cleansed from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, whether a male or a female. But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.' " Leviticus 12:6-8

Map of Ancient Judea



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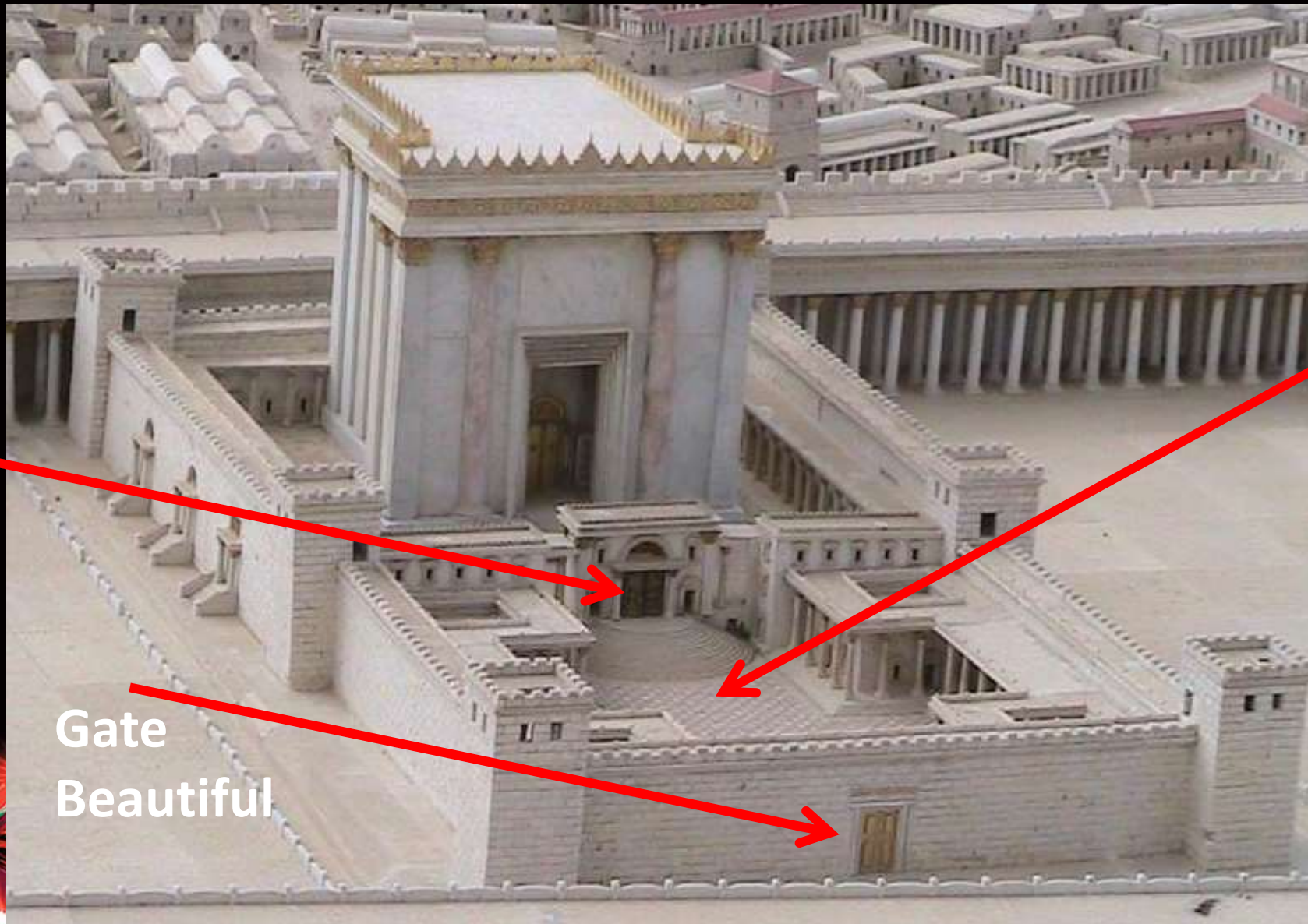
Model of Jerusalem in the Days of Jesus



Model of Temple Mount in the Days of Jesus



Model of Jewish Temple in the Days of Jesus



Nicanor
Gate

Gate
Beautiful

Court of
the Women

And there was a man in Jerusalem
whose name was Simeon; Luke 2:25a

* The name “Simeon” in English is pronounced
“Shimon” שמעון in Hebrew, and is related to the
Hebrew verb *Shema*, to listen and obey



and this man was righteous [toward people] and devout [toward God], looking for [*prosdechomenos*, ready to receive] the consolation [παράκλησις *paraklesis*] of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. Luke 2:25b

* The emphasis on “consolation” transforms the concept of waiting from excruciating endurance to active anticipation. Simeon counted the days until God revealed what he had promised to him personally.

– Jeff Peabody



Why did Simeon look for Israel's consolation?

- “Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God. Isaiah 40:1
- Shout for joy, O heavens! And rejoice, O earth! Break forth into joyful shouting, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted His people and will have compassion on His afflicted. Isaiah 49:13
- Break forth, shout joyfully together, you waste places of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. Isaiah 52:9



Simeon received a promise

And it had been revealed to him [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Luke 2:26

*Are you longing to see the Messiah this Christmas?

*What promise of God are you claiming today?



And he [Simeon] came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents [Mary and Joseph] brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, Luke 2:27-28

*Simeon has the distinction of being the only person in the Bible who we are explicitly told held the Christ child in his arms.

*God the Holy Spirit will always draw you toward Jesus, never away from the Savior



Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus meet Simeon in the Court of the Women in the Temple





Painting called
“Simeon the
Godreceiver”
by Alexei
Yegorov





Painting by
Ambrogio
Lorenzetti
from the
year 1342

Simeon's promise from God was fulfilled

Simeon said, "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word;" Luke 2:29

*God kept His promise to a man known in history only because he waited obediently for God to keep His promise. – Holman New Testament Commentary



Simeon's promise fulfilled

Simeon said, “for my eyes have seen Your salvation [σωτήριον *soterion*, Greek synonym of Hebrew word יְשׁוּעָה *Yeshua*], which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a Light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” Luke 2:30-32

He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation [יְשׁוּעָה] may reach to the end of the earth.” Isaiah 49:6



Then the glory
of the Lord will
be revealed,
and all flesh
will see it
together; for
the mouth of
the Lord has
spoken.
Isaiah 40:5



Mary and Joseph marveled

And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. Luke 2:33

*Though they had been told that their Son was the Messiah, perhaps they had not comprehended the scope of His ministry to the entire world—to the Gentiles as well as to the people of Israel.

– Bible Knowledge Commentary

*Even today, can we really comprehend the magnitude of the Christmas story, that God became man and dwelled among us?



Simeon's word of hope

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother,
“Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many
in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—and a sword will
pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from
many hearts may be revealed.” Luke 2:34-35

*Our individual eternities fall and rise on the basis of our response to
the Savior Jesus who was born that first Christmas



Meet Anna

And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel [“face of God”], of the tribe of Asher. Luke 2:36a

* She was a prophetess, like Miriam, Deborah, and Huldah



DIVISION OF THE PROMISED LAND TO THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

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Asher was one of the northern tribes that was lost during the exile, but Anna apparently kept a record of her lineage. Israel had lost track of the northern tribes, but God had not.

– Judy Allen



She [Anna] was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. Luke 2:36b-37a

*How will we serve God after a loss?

*How long will we remain faithful? For 60+ years like Anna?



She [Anna] never left the temple, serving
night and day with fastings and prayers.

Luke 2:37b

“This waiting on God is the very real work of the
people of God.” - Ann Voskamp



Like Anna...

Do you need Joy?

When you have suffered loss in life?

When you need patience to continue in faith?





Prophetess Anna

My own waiting often feels like impatience and irritation. I grit my teeth and try to just hold on until I can move past whatever my current trial looks like. I want to get *out*, not welcome *in*. What would it look like to shift into a mindset where we are ready to receive more than escape? Our hardships look different through the lenses of curiosity and welcome. - Jeff Peabody

At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God... Luke 2:38a

Do you need Joy?

*When finally seeing Jesus causes you to be grateful to the Heavenly Father?

*When you are thanking God this Christmas?



(Anna) continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for [*prosdechomenos*, ready to receive] the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:38b

*Do you continue to speak of Jesus to ALL who are looking for redemption?

*God's love is for men and women, young and old, from all places and all backgrounds.

*The Christmas story is not a secret for insiders.



TIME FRAME	EVENT	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
9 MONTHS	<i>The Virgin Conception of Christ by the Holy Spirit and pregnancy. Joseph comes to terms by the Angel of the Lord's counsel and though not physically with her, he proceeds with the marriage. Mary visits Elizabeth.</i>	1:18-25		1:26-56
LAST DAYS OF PREGNANCY	<i>Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem for taxation census.</i>			2:1-5
THE DAY OF BIRTH	<i>The Virgin Birth of Christ.</i>	1:25		2:6-7
LATER THAT EVENING	<i>The Shepherds are visited by the Angel of the Lord.</i>			2:8-12
SAME TIME	<i>The Heavenly host praise God.</i>			2:13-14
AFTER THE ANGELIC VISIT	<i>The Shepherds go and visit the Baby Jesus.</i>			2:15-20
8 DAYS LATER	<i>Baby Jesus circumcised.</i>			2:21
33 DAYS LATER (41 SINCE BIRTH)	<i>After Mary's time of uncleanness, she goes to give the offering demanded in Leviticus 12:1-13 at the Temple in Jerusalem. (Jesus also presented as firstborn)</i>			2:22-24
WHILE IN JERUSALEM	<i>Simeon sees the Baby Jesus and rejoices.</i>			2:25-35
12-18 months later	The Magi visit Jesus, Mary, Joseph in Bethlehem	2:1-12		

Next Sunday...

- New Year's Day, January 1, 2023
- Normal Sunday schedule of worship services, ministries and small groups
- Learn our annual verse for 2023!



Live Like Simeon

- Trust in God's promises
- Believe when you cannot see
- Wait patiently for God to come through
- Be ready to receive God's consolation
- See God our Salvation when He appears
- Depart in peace



Live Like Anna

- Remain faithful to God after a loss
- Remain faithful to God for a long time
- Serve night and day in God's House (Temple)
- Fast – devote time to God over other priorities
- Pray – speak to and listen to the Father



4 Lessons from Simeon and Anna as We Wait for the End Times

by Denise Kohlmeyer

1. We wait
2. We watch
3. We worship
4. We work

