



Simeon and Anna Witness

Lesson Overview

1. Brain Builder

Witnesses and witnessing.

2. Read

The visitation in the temple and meeting with Simeon and Anna, pp. 1-2.

3. Discuss

Where can we witness the Lord? How does He come to us in our lives? p. 2.

4. What “witness” did they give of the Lord’s birth?

Match witness statements about the Lord’s birth with the people who said them. p. 3.

New Church Concept Witness

John is said to have borne witness to the Word of God because John means all who possess goodness of life arising from charity and its accompanying faith.... These bear witness, which is to say, they see, acknowledge, and accept from the heart in a state of light, and confess the truths of the Word, especially this truth there, that the Lord’s humanity is Divine. *Apocalypse Revealed 6*

FaithBuilder 2 | Lesson 13 | Christmas

Brain Builder

1. What is the job of a witness?
2. Why are witnesses important?
3. Is a fair trial possible without witnesses?
4. A variety of people gave witness to the Lord’s birth on earth. Who were they? What kind of witness did they bear? (the prophets, Elizabeth and Zacharias, angels and shepherds, wise men, Simeon and Anna)
5. The Writings say “witnessing” is the ability “to see and acknowledge what is true, to receive that truth from the heart, in light, and to confess it in our lives.” *Apocalypse Revealed 6*

Read

Simeon and Anna lived in Jerusalem. When Jesus was forty days old Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord and to offer sacrifices as prescribed by Jewish law. While they were there Simeon and Anna came to the temple and witnessed the fact that Jesus’ had been born.

Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

**“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation
Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,
A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel.”**

Witnesses

And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, **“Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”**

Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant **she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.**

So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. Luke 2:22-39

"And I will give power to my two witnesses" symbolizes people who confess and acknowledge from the heart that the Lord is God of heaven and earth, whose humanity is Divine, and who are conjoined with Him by a life in accordance with the Ten Commandments. These two characteristics are the two essential elements of the New Church. Regarding the first essential, that the Lord is God of heaven and earth, whose humanity is Divine - that this is a testimony, and therefore that those people are witnesses who confess and acknowledge this from the heart, may be seen from the following: I am your fellow servant...of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus.... For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Revelation 19:10). The Lord attests to it on the authority of His Word, thus on the authority of Himself. Therefore He is called the faithful and true witness (Revelation 1:5, 3:14); and He says, ...I testify of Myself, (and) My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going. (John 8:14) Also, When the Counselor comes..., the spirit of truth..., it will testify of Me. (John 15:26) The Counselor, the spirit of truth, which is also the Holy Spirit, is an emanating Divinity, and this is the Lord Himself. Now because the Lord Himself is the witness, therefore witnesses also mean people who bear the same testimony on behalf of the Lord. *Apocalypse Revealed* 490

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Have you ever been a witness? What can “witnessing” do for you? (Witnessing can help people see the truth in a new way; give a sense of purpose or resolve to change the way we act; bring joy.)
2. Where were Simeon and Anna when they witnessed the Lord’s coming? What does the temple represent in the Word? (The church where the Lord is known and loved.)
3. Where is the “temple” in a person’s mind? (The “temple” is the true ideas from the Word in our minds through which the Lord can be present with us.)
4. Simeon and Anna were led by the Spirit, into the temple. What leads us to acknowledge what is true in our own lives?
5. Imagine you are Mary. How would you feel after hearing Simeon’s words?
6. What is the Lord’s birth in a person’s life? (The Lord’s birth takes place in a person’s life when the person chooses to come into relationship with Him *by stopping doing things that are against His will, against the 10 Commandments.*)
7. In what ways might letting the Lord into your life be frightening?
8. Jesus said, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.” (Matthew 10:34) What is the sword that Jesus brought to pierce the soul and what is its implication?) Truth—which gives us the light to see what is false and evil in our lives. Truth cuts through the false appearance that we are “good”. It reveals to us what we are like, and how much we need the Lord.)
9. Is heavenly life possible without being pierced by Jesus’ sword? (No. We cannot run away from evil if we do not see or know what is true.)
10. The various people who witnessed the Lord’s coming on earth showed different responses to His coming. Try to match the responses with the people on p. 3.

What "witness" did they give of the Lord's birth?

Draw a line to indicate which response goes with which person (or people). The first one is done for you.

PERSON

RESPONSE (OR RECEPTIVITY) TO THE LORD'S COMING

Mary

Gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Joseph

Was very angry and ordered the killing of all male children in Bethlehem who were two years old and younger.

Angel Gabriel

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior."

The Shepherds

"I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."

Simeon

Protected Mary and the baby Lord.

Anna

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation...."

The Wise Men

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him.

Herod the King

"Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.