

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Remember the virgin birth of our Lord and how it was void of any royal trappings due the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Remember Mary as a thinker – one who pondered and treasured all these events in her soul.

Luke 2:21-40:

1. The circumcision and naming of the Messiah.
2. Mary's ceremonial purification.
3. Redemption of Jesus as the 1st born son.
4. The priest's recognition that Jesus is, in fact, the promised Messiah.
5. The widow's praise, thanksgiving, & proclamation that Messiah has arrived.
6. Joseph and Mary return to Nazareth with Jesus.
7. Early years of Jesus Christ developing as a fine young Lad.

Luke 2:21-25

(21) And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

There is actually an expanse of time between verse 21 and 22.

The assumption is that you are Jewish and understand the Law. And your understanding of the Law allows you to fill in all the gaps.

To understand this we must read verse 39 –

Corrected - "And now eight days had been fulfilled to circumcise Him, and His name was called Jesus..."

Who called Him Jesus? Joseph did – because Mary told him about the conversation with the Archangel Gabriel.

(39) **When they** (Joseph & Mary) had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord (includes the Abrahamic Covenant & Mosaic Law), they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

Because Joseph and Mary were performing everything according to the Law they were walking "blamelessly in all the commandments of the Lord" just as Zacharias and Elizabeth were walking.

(22) And when the days (33 days + 7 = 40 days) for their purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. Note Lev 12 passage

(23) (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"),

(24) and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS."

Leviticus 12:1-8

(1) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

(2) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: 'When a woman gives birth and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean for **seven days**, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be unclean.'

(3) 'On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

(4) 'Then she shall remain in the blood of her purification for **thirty-three days**; she shall not touch any consecrated thing, nor enter the sanctuary until the days of her purification are completed.

Mother's purification process if she gives birth to a daughter.

(5) 'But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean for two weeks, as in her menstruation; and she shall remain in the blood of her purification for **sixty-six days**.

(6) '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**.

Could she have gone to the doorway of the tent of meeting before purification days were completed? **NO**

Burnt offering –

- A lamb is prescribed.
 - The entire animal minus the skin is consumer (by fire).
 - Total consumption symbolizes God's complete acceptance of the sacrifice.
 - Application of bringing the sacrifice – symbolic to being completely surrendered to the will of God.
 - Furthermore, it symbolized that God had completely accepted the individual who brought forth the offering and set him apart to a life for His good pleasure.

Sin offering –

- A pigeon or turtle dove.
 - The blood of the animal was rubbed on the horns of the altar.
 - The fat of the animal was burned.
 - So the entire animal was not consumed. Only part.

Sacrifices were God's way of teaching Israel about two things:

Atonement – Pay for - a payment for personal sin. The blood was the atonement which represents the animal's life.

Propitiation – Satisfaction with the payment – a soothing aroma to God = burning of fat.

In Mary's case, had she sinned? NO – having a baby is not a sin!

But thru the process of birth and the contact with blood and bodily fluids the female is considered ceremonially unclean, therefore requiring purification.

(7) '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.

The Priest is acting as the intermediary between God and man – an **intercessor**.

We have an **intercessory** ministry to pray for fellow believers.

(8) '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.'

God's provision for the poor -

- A turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the Lamb in the burnt offering.

And so - -

Luke 2:21

(22) And when the days (40 days) for their purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem **to present** Him to the Lord.

“To present” - παριστημι

PARISTEMI – “To place at ones disposal”

Jesus is being placed at God's disposal.

(23) (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY (set apart) TO THE LORD"),

Note Lord's instruction to Moses on this matter -

Exodus 13:1-2, 11-12

(1) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

(2) "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."

(11) "Now when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you,

(12) you shall devote to the LORD the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the LORD.

Reason for this attention to the first born is that God spared the entire first born of Israel from the 10th plague when they were in Egypt.

**Therefore the 1st Born was considered His! He is the One who redeemed them.
Therefore He owns them!**

The biblical custom was to redeem the child from God.

Five shekels of silver were required to redeem the first-born.

(24) and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "**A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.**"

The beginning of the redemption process -

(25) And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Mary's burnt offering and sin offering

– Notice it is a pair of doves and not a lamb and a dove.

Mary and Joseph were POOR.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.