

Series #22: Epiphanies, Theophanies, and the Incarnation
Session 4 – The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Schedule

February 2 – The Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple

February 9 – The Wedding at Cana

February 16 – The Transfiguration

The Story

- Luke 2:21-38 (read 2 or 3 versions)

Why did Jesus, Mary, and Joseph go to the Temple?

- Following the Torah. *Pidyon ha'ben* – presentation of the first-born son.
 - Exodus 13:1-2, 11-16
 - Originally, the Jewish firstborn were the sanctified priestly class. They were inducted into G-d's service when they were spared from the Plague of the Firstborn that struck Egypt. However, when the Jews—firstborn included—served the Golden Calf, the firstborn forfeited their status. The priesthood was transferred to the tribe that did not participate in the Golden Calf hoopla—the Levites, and particularly the children of Aaron. Since G-d is the first being, it is fitting that firstborns are consecrated to Him. Ever since, all male Israelite firstborn must redeem themselves from a kohen in a pidyon haben ceremony. This reminds us that everything in the world belongs to G-d. When we consecrate our very first and very best, we are reminded that everything really belongs to our Creator, and that we must “purchase” it from Him before using it.
https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/928156/jewish/The-History-of-Pidyon-Haben.htm
 - In modern Jewish practice, this happens 31 days after a male child is born.
- Also, Mary had to undergo the purification ritual.
 - Leviticus 12
 - Luke 2:22: “their purification” suggests Luke’s misunderstanding of Jewish customs at the time.