

“The Narrated Nativity” script sample #04

written by Frederick Passmore, based on the Gospels

Narrator: It's very often true that God is doing amazing and significant things in plain sight among many people, but only those spiritually in tune with his word and spirit are even aware of it. One of the best examples of this is when Jesus was on this earth. He was the very incarnation of God, in humanity's fragile form... but only a few around him knew this.

After the forty days required by the law of Moses for the ceremonial purification of both Mary and Joseph after Jesus was born, they brought him to the temple in Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. For it was written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord." They kept the law also with their sacrifice of a pair of doves, which was a provision made for the poor, who could not afford a lamb. So, as they came into the court for the ceremony, they were, as proud parents have always done, stopping to show admiring people the baby. But of the people there oohing and aahing over the child, one was different in his appreciation. They were seeing the baby with their natural eyes, but he was looking with eyes of faith. His name was Simeon, and according to the Bible he was a righteous and devout man, with the Holy Spirit upon him. The Spirit of God had revealed to him that he would not die before he saw the Christ who was coming, and as he was fervently anticipating and waiting for the Messiah to come, this was not only comforting but exciting to him.

He had been moved by the Spirit to go into the Temple courts, and as he gazed upon Mary and Joseph with the baby, that same Spirit whispered to him that this was the one. Wonder and joy played across his face as he soaked in the vision before him, and as he took the child, who was to be the Father's perfect sacrifice for sin, he began to praise God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Now, although you might think that Mary and Joseph should be getting used to unusual things happening in association with the baby, they still marveled at this pronouncement, looking at each other with amazement. Simeon then blessed them, and said to Mary more words to wonder at and ponder in her heart. However, they were not entirely comforting. "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." A shadow seemed to fall across Mary's countenance as she heard these prophetic words spoken. What kind of sorrow would come to her from this child? And why would be be spoken against? But she pushed the worry aside as she remember who this child was, and who had sent him. Whatever the future held, it was in God's hands and according to his good plan.

Actions during the next part of the narration: *Anna, moving toward the family, recognizes the baby also, and takes him in her arms, eyes full of tears as she holds him and looks up to Heaven in thanksgiving...*