

JESUS, THE GREAT DIVIDER

²⁹ *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*

Luke 2:29-32

³⁴ *Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”*

Luke 2:34-35

¹⁸ *“Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”*

Luke 20:18

I. Mary had a little lamb.

A. Mary had a little stone.

* Jesus was the great divider. He was a stumbling stone and rock of offense, or a tested and precious cornerstone. Two radically different interpretations. (Isaiah 28:16; I Peter 2:4-8)

[Isa 28:16] ¹⁶ *So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic.*

[1Pe 2:4-8] ⁴ *As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him-- ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what*

they were destined for.

B. Mary had a little sign.

* Jesus would be a rejected sign from God. Most, in pride, would oppose, contest, or resist him.

C. Mary had a little sword.

* Baby Jesus was Ezekiel's selective sword of judgment and division. (Ezekiel 14:17; Matthew 10:34-36)

[Eze 14:17] ¹⁷ *“Or if I bring a sword against that country and say, ‘Let the sword pass throughout the land,’ and I kill its people and their animals,*

[Mat 10:34-36] ³⁴ *“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn “ ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- ³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’*

II. Jesus' presence manifests and crystallizes pride. (Proverbs 16:18)

¹⁸ *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*

* Stubbornness, disrespectfulness, rudeness, self-importance, superiority to others, argumentativeness, opinionatedness, entitlement. A high or inordinate opinion of one's own dignity, merit, or superiority. Better than, smarter than, more important than.

III. Broken or crushed / Two responses to Christ

A. We humble ourselves and receive him. (Broken)

B. We exalt ourselves and reject him. (Crushed)

C. Will we receive and obey the will of God in our time?

