1. **Luke 2:21**

* What are two things that happened to Jesus on the eighth day?
* **1 Maccabees 2:1-5**
* What do you notice about the names of the five sons in **1 Maccabees**?
* What might be the purpose of having a secular name and a Hebrew name?
* What is a *Brit Milah (Bris)* and what does it have to do with Jesus and John?
* What does Jesus’s and John’s circumcision represent (considering we have already looked at the scriptures in the **Old Testament** recently on this topic)?

1. **Luke 2:22-24**

* What did Mary and Joseph do in this reading?
* **Leviticus 12:1-8**
* In **Leviticus** there are two options available to fulfill the Law of Moses in regard to the sacrificial offerings, what are they?
* What type of sacrifice offering did Mary and Joseph present according to the text?
* What does this say about their economic situation during the presentation?

1. **Luke 2:25-38**

* What major title does the **Gospel** assign to **Jesus** in this passage, which we could say is now a second name for him apart from **Jesus** (*one who saves*)?
* What does this second name mean?
* What is the Greek word for this title?
* What does “awaiting the consolation of Israel” mean?
* Mary is told “and you yourself a sword will pierce”, what might this mean?
* Who is “Anna” and what did she do for Jesus Christ?
* **St. Bede** (672 AD – 735 AD) *Homilies on The Gospels Section 1.11*

“For you of the brotherhood ought to be aware that, under the law, circumcision offered the same help of a health giving treatment against a wound of original sin that now, in the time of revealed grace, baptism is given to do, except they [under the law] could not yet enter the gate of the heavenly kingdom, until by his coming he who gave the law would give his blessing, that the God of gods might be seen in Zion; and so, consoled in the bosom of Abraham by a blessed rest after death, they awaited with blissful hope their entry into heavenly peace. For the one who now cries out in a terrible but saving way through his evangelist, ‘Unless a man be reborn of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God’ is the one who previously cried out through his law, ‘A male, the flesh of whose foreskin is uncircumcised, that soul shall vanish from his people because he has made my pact null and void’. That is, because Adam by his transgression went against the pact of life given to human beings in paradise, and in him all sinned, [a person] will vanish from the society of the saints if he is not aided by a saving remedy. Both purifications, namely that of circumcision under the law and that of baptism under the gospel, were provided as graces for taking away the first transgression.”

* What relationships does **St. Bede** point out between “circumcision” and “baptism”?
* **John 3:5, Mark 16:16, Colossians 2:11-12, 1 Peter 3:18-22, Titus 3:4-7**
* Does baptism really play a role in “saving”? How?
* **St. Augustine** (354 AD – 430 AD) *Sermon 277.17*

“The just Simeon saw him with his heart, because he recognized the infant;

and he saw him with his eyes, because he took the infant in his arms. Seeing

him in both ways, recognizing the Son of God, and cuddling the one begotten

of the virgin, he said, ‘Now, Lord, you are letting your servant go in peace, since

my eyes have seen your salvation.’ Notice what he said. You

see, he was being kept until he should see with his eyes what he already

perceived with faith. He took the baby body, he cradled the body in his arms;

on seeing the body, that is on perceiving the Lord in the flesh, he said, My eyes

have seen your salvation. How do you know that isn't the way in which all flesh

is going to see the salvation of God!”

* What point is **St. Augustine** making here when he quotes **Luke** and speaks of seeing “the salvation of God”?
* Please share something that stood out to you today in this study.