

# Luke 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

## Analysis

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The parenthetical 'As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord' quotes Exodus 13:2 and grounds Jesus's presentation in Scripture. The phrase 'openeth the womb' designates firstborn males belonging to God, remembering His sparing of Israel's firstborn at Passover. Jesus being 'called holy to the Lord' is ironic—He is inherently holy (the Holy One, Acts 3:14) yet designated holy by ceremonial law. This demonstrates that Jesus, though divine, entered fully into human legal and religious obligations. His consecration to God foreshadows His complete dedication to the Father's will (John 4:34; 17:4).

## Historical Context

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Firstborn consecration remembered the Passover (Ex 13:14-15) and required either service in the sanctuary or redemption through sacrifice (Num 18:15-16). Jesus, as true Passover Lamb (1 Cor 5:7), would ultimately redeem all God's firstborn through His own blood.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What is the significance of Jesus being designated 'holy' by law when He is inherently holy?
2. How does firstborn consecration to God foreshadow Jesus's complete dedication to the Father?
3. How does Jesus's presentation as firstborn relate to His role as Passover Lamb?

## Interlinear Text

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καθὼς γέγραπται ἐν νόμῳ κυρίῳ ὅτι Πᾶν ἄρσεν  
(As it is written in the law of the Lord G3754 Every male  
G2531 G1125 G1722 G3551 G2962 G3956 G730

διανοίγον μήτραν ἁγίου τῷ κυρίῳ κληθήσεται  
that openeth the womb holy G3588 of the Lord shall be called  
G1272 G3388 G40 G2962 G2564

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 13:2** (Parallel theme): Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

**Numbers 3:13** (References Lord): Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.

**Exodus 22:29** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

**Exodus 34:19** (Parallel theme): All that openeth the matrix is mine; and every firstling among thy cattle, whether ox or sheep, that is male.

**Numbers 18:15** (References Lord): Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be

thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem.

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