

Luke 2:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

Analysis

The sacrifice of 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons' reveals Jesus's family's poverty. Leviticus 12:8 specifies this substitute for those unable to afford a lamb, demonstrating that God accommodates the poor while maintaining covenant requirements. That the Lord of glory entered the world in such poverty that His parents couldn't afford standard sacrifice demonstrates the depths of His humiliation (2 Cor 8:9). This detail confirms Jesus's identification with the poor and His understanding of their struggles. The Creator submitting to purification offerings highlights the radical nature of the incarnation—God made man, rich made poor, holy made sin-offering.

Historical Context

The poor person's offering (Lev 12:8) demonstrates Mary and Joseph's economic status. Despite Jesus's royal lineage through David, they lived in poverty, showing that earthly circumstances don't reflect spiritual reality. Jesus's life among the poor shaped His ministry to the marginalized.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's family's poverty teach about His identification with the poor?
2. How does God's accommodation of the poor in the Law demonstrate His compassion?
3. What does Jesus's humble circumstances despite royal lineage teach about earthly versus heavenly values?

Interlinear Text

καὶ τοῦ δοῦναι θυσίαν κατὰ τὸ εἰρημένον ἐν
And G3588 **to offer** G1325 **a sacrifice** G2378 **according** G2596 **to that which is said** G3588 G2046 **in** G1722

νόμῳ κυρίου ζεύγος τρυγόνων ἢ δύο νεοσσοῦς
the law G3551 **of the Lord** G2962 **A pair** G2201 **of turtledoves** G5167 **or** G2228 **two** G1417 **young** G3502

περιστερῶν
pigeons G4058

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 8:9 (References Lord): For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

Leviticus 12:2 (Parallel theme): Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean.

