

Luke 2:25–35

- ²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.
- ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.
- ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,
- ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:
- ²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;
- ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation
- ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,
- ³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."
- ³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.
- ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against
- ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

"Simeon's Announcement" **Luke 2:25-35**

INTRO:

The story of the first advent of our Savior touched the lives of many people. One person Luke singles out for our attention is a man named Simeon. We do not know who Simeon was. He does not appear to be a significant person in an historical sense. He has no genealogy. Nor do we find a job description of any type. We are not told his age or his religious background. Simeon appeared for a moment on the stage of history to bear witness to the identity and future work of the baby Lord Jesus and then disappeared.

As we explore this account of Simeon's testimony concerning Jesus, we will try to ask and answer three questions. First, who was Simeon? Second, what Simeon did do? Finally, what has this to do with us?

- I. Who was Simeon? (v. 25-26)***
- II. What did Simeon do? (v. 27-35)***
- III. What has this to do with us?***

I. Who was Simeon? (v. 25-26)

“And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” (Luke 1:15-16)

A. We know nothing of Simeon from history, but Luke wrote much about him here in this text. First, Luke told us Simeon was ***“righteous.”*** This told us of Simeon’s standing before God. Simeon was a man of faith and a man like Abraham, who whose faith was counted unto him for righteousness. His righteousness was not earned righteousness. Rather, it was a righteousness before God which he received by faith.

B. Because Simeon was ***“righteous”*** in the sight of God, he sought to live in a right way. Luke described this as ***“devout”*** or one who lives with respect toward God. We would call Simeon a ***“godly”*** man. Simeon was a man who cared about pleasing God in everything he did.

C. Not only was Simeon ***“righteous”*** and ***“devout,”*** he was a man who lived waiting for the promises of God. We are told that he was ***“waiting for the Consolation of Israel.”*** The blessed hope and glorious appearing Simeon looked for was the first coming of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. Simeon lived like Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac in **Hebrews 11:13.**

“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

The promises were real to Simeon just as they were real to Abraham and Sarah. The promises of God motivated and shaped his life.

D. Finally, we find that Simeon was under the control of the Holy Spirit.

“The Holy Spirit was upon him.”

God the Holy Spirit had not yet begun His Church age ministry of indwelling believers. So, we do not read that Simeon was indwelt or even filled with the Holy Spirit. Rather, we do read how he submitted to the Holy Spirit in that he obeyed Him to go to the Temple to see Jesus. God gave Simeon a special blessing among those who were living at that time. The Lord revealed to Simeon that he would live to see the Lord’s Messiah.

II. What did Simeon do? (v. 27-35)

“So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ‘Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.’ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, ‘Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. ”

A. Having considered who Simeon was, let us now look at what he did.

1. When Simeon arrived at the Temple, the Lord gave him the ability to know who the Lord Jesus was and he took Him up in his arms and began to prophesy about Him. Here is another testimony as to the identity of this one born in Bethlehem. God revealed to Simeon he would not die until he had seen God's salvation. Among all the babies who came with their mothers that day, Simeon recognized the baby Jesus was the one who was the salvation of God. Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms. He recognized that his departure to be with the Lord was imminent.

2. Simeon prophesied the Lord Jesus was the salvation God had prepared for all peoples. In saying this, Simeon echoed many prophecies which God promised through Isaiah the prophet. His Messiah would bring salvation and blessing to the Jews, and to the Gentiles also. How much Simeon understood about the price the baby Jesus would pay to purchase this salvation we do not know. Still, Simeon understood far more than most folks in that Temple precinct that day.

3. Two things will result from the Savior's birth. First, He would ***"bring revelation to the Gentiles."*** To this point, God's revelation was exclusively for the Jews. Now, when the Gospel is preached, the revelation of the will of God will be to all people. Second, there will be glory that will come to the Jews because Salvation is of the Jews!

B. While Mary and Joseph undoubtedly knew some of this because God had revealed it to them, I am sure they had little comprehension of all this entailed for them. So, in **verses 34-35**, Simeon described in broad strokes Mary's future also.

"Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'"

1. This would not be an easy ride for Mary. In spite of the fact that Jesus was the promised Messiah, many would reject her Son. This rejection would demonstrate their true standing before God. Some would respond in faith. However, many would fall in judgment. Remember **John 1:10-11**?

"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him."

These are those who fell over the stumbling block that He was to them.

2. Those who will triumph over this world and the tomb are those described in **John 1:12-13**.

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Which of these groups do you and I belong to? Have we rejected Him or received Him? There is no middle ground.

C. He will also be spoken against. If we are going to stand for God and serve Him as we should, someone will oppose us. They opposed Jesus too. We on this side of the cross know what Simeon was saying when he said to Mary, ***"a sword will pierce through your own soul also."*** He was talking about the cross. What was Mary thinking as she saw her son who was also the Son of God nailed to that cross to die? We cannot fully know.

1. We must never forget what it cost God the Father to save us. We must never belittle the sorrow, shame, and suffering our Lord Jesus went through to save us. He did it because there was no other way we could be saved.

2. Isaiah 53:3-6 described it for us.

“He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

III. What has this to do with us?

Having now looked at the story of Simeon’s announcement to Mary and Joseph, let us try to understand what we should take from all of this.

First, we need to ask ourselves if God could describe us like he described Simeon. **(1)** Are you and I *“righteous”* in the sight of God? **(2)** Are we *“devout?”* Do we live our lives in a consistent relationship with the living God? **(3)** Are we living on the promises? Are the promises real to us? Do we embrace them and let them change our lives?

Second, have we embraced the truth about who the baby born at Bethlehem is? Are we embracing Him as our Savior and Lord?

Hymn #175 Hallelujah! What A Savior