

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 that 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 a historic sense. We find no genealogy for him nor a job description of any type. We do not know his age or his religious background. The one thing that we know about Simeon was that he for a moment appears on the stage of history to bear witness to the identity and future work of the baby Lord Jesus.

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

- I. Who Is Simeon? (v. 25-26)*
- II. What Did Simeon Do? (v. 27-35)*
- III. What Has This To Do With Us?*

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

Luke 2:25-26 *“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.”*

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

C. Third, not only was Simeon **“righteous”** and **“devout,”** he was a man who lived waiting for the promises of God. He was **“waiting for the Consolation of Israel.”** 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 Simeon was under the control of the Holy Spirit. **“The Holy Spirit was upon him.”** We read how he obeyed the Holy Spirit and went to the Temple to see Jesus. God had given Simeon a special blessing among those who were living at that time. He revealed to him that he would live to see the Lord’s Messiah.

II. What Did Simeon Do? (v. 27-35)

A. Let us now look at what Simeon did.

Luke 2:27-35 *“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.’”*

1. When he 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 speak a prophecy about Him. Here was another testimony to the identity of this One born in Bethlehem. God had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen God's salvation. As he began his prophecy, he recognizes that his departure to be with the Lord is imminent.

2. Simeon said the Lord Jesus was ***"the salvation"*** that God had prepared for all peoples. In saying this, Simeon echoed many prophecies God gave through Isaiah the prophet. His Messiah would bring salvation and blessing not just to the Jews, but to the Gentiles also.

3. Two things will result from this Savior and Lord. First, He will bring revelation to the Gentiles. To this point, God's revelation had been 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 which will come to the Jews because Salvation is of the Jews.

B. While Mary and Joseph undoubtedly knew some of this because of the revelation that God had given to them, they had little comprehension of all this entailed for them. Hence, in **verses 34-35**, Simeon detailed in broad strokes what will be 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 will not be an easy ride for Mary. In spite of the fact that He is the true Messiah, she will see many reject her Son. Their true standing before God will become evident in their response to Jesus. Some would rise in their faith. 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 rose in triumph over this world and the tomb are those described in **John 1:12.**

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:"

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 you are going to stand for God and serve Him as you should, someone will oppose you. 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 talked about the cross. What was Mary thinking when she saw her son who was also the Son of God nailed to that cross? We cannot fully know.

III. What Has This To Do With Us?

A. Let us try to understand what we should learn from all of this. First, we need to ask ourselves, if God could describe us like he described Simeon. Are you and I ***“righteous”*** in the sight of God? Are we ***“devout?”*** Do we live our lives in a consistent relationship with the living God? Are we living on the promises? Are the promises real to us? Do we embrace them and let them change our lives?

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

Hymn# 169 The Unveiled Christ