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Advent 2017

—THE SONGS OF LUKE'S GOSPEL—



“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.”

—Luke 2:25

“THE NUNC DIMITTIS” - LUKE 2:29-32

Background

- Having described the nativity in 1:1-21, Luke transitions the reader to Jerusalem and the temple courts in 1:22-38 for the final song of the first chapters of his gospel.

The uniqueness of these experiences in the temple foreshadow the many significant events of Jesus' life which would take place in the same location.

The Faithfulness of Joseph & Mary

Luke 2:22-24—²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

⇒ The emphasis in this passage is placed on the relationship between the actions of Joseph and Mary and the Law of Moses.

(1) They are _____ to obey God's Word.

(2) They are of humble _____.



Luke 1:50, 52—“And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation...he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate.”

The Introduction of Simeon

Luke 2:25-26—²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous 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.

⇒ We don't know anything about this man other than what Scripture tells us about him.

“...righteous and devout...” →

“...the consolation of Israel...” — *παράκλησις (paraklēsis)* — “Comfort, solace; that which affords comfort or refreshment.”
The rabbis of the time associated this with the salvation of the Messiah who was referred to as the ‘comforter’ or ‘consoler’ of Israel.

Isa. 40:1-2—Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

Isa. 57:18-19—I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners, creating the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to the far and to the near,” says the Lord, “and I will heal him.”

Simeon's faith is demonstrated in that he was waiting _____ upon the Lord to fulfill the promises which He had made long ago through the prophets.

The Song of Simeon — Luke 2:29-32

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

Theme:

⇒ **Simeon took the boy in his arms and *blessed* God.**

Psa. 103:21—Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

⇒ **Simeon acknowledged that God had kept His Word and that he could now die in *peace*.**

Gen. 15:15—As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace.

⇒ **Simeon recognized that this child was the *embodiment* of God’s salvation.**

⇒ **Simeon declared that God has come to fulfill the words of Isaiah the prophet *personally*.**

“...in the presence of...” — **κατὰ πρόσωπον (*kata prosōpon*)** →

Isa. 25:6-9—6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

“...a light for revelation to the gentiles...” →

Isa. 42:6-7—6 “I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, 7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Isa. 49:5-6—5 And now the Lord says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—6 he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

“...and glory to your people Israel.” →

Isa. 46:13—I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory.”

Simeon’s Example of Faith

1. Simeon is an example to all of us that we are to live with faithful expectation that God will accomplish His _____ both in our own lives and in the world around us.
2. Simeon’s song reminds us that we can die in _____ once we have come to know Jesus as the personal revelation of God.

Questions for Reflection

- What things am I waiting expectantly for God to do in my life/family/church? Am I in prayer to the Lord regarding these things?
- Have I told the Sovereign Lord that He may dismiss me at any time because I know and trust in Jesus?