

Simeon's Song of Joy

December 22, 2019



Open: Why do we tend to be happy when we see newborn babies?

Read: Luke 2:21-35

Discuss:

1. What do verses 21-24 tell us about Jesus' parents? What rituals or practices do we engage in today which show we are set apart as a people who belong to God? What are ways you celebrate Christmas that reveal you are a follower of Christ?
2. From verse 25, how would you describe Simeon? What does it mean to be "waiting for the consolation of Israel"? How might this anticipation have been evident in Simeon's life?
3. What are believers today waiting for? What might be some possible benefits of this waiting? How do we maintain a positive attitude while waiting when we don't see things happening?
4. In what ways is the Holy Spirit at work in Simeon? Have you experienced any of these effects of the Holy Spirit in your own life? Explain.
5. How do you explain Simeon's joyful spirit (vv. 28-32) even though this event indicates that he will soon die? In what sense does Simeon believe he has "seen [God's] salvation" (v. 30)?
6. Based on verses 30-32, how would you summarize the purpose of Jesus in the world? What are some ways in which your life shows you embrace this same purpose?
7. Since Joseph and Mary received angelic revelation about Jesus' identity and ministry (Matt. 1:20-23; Luke 1:31-33), why do you think they marveled at Simeon's prophecy (v. 33)? How are you still learning things about Jesus that cause you to continue to marvel at Him?
8. Simeon also gives a blessing to Mary and Joseph (v. 34), commenting that Jesus would cause the "fall and rise of many." How did even Jesus' first coming bring both judgment and blessing? (See *Luke 20:13-18; Romans 9:30-33; 1 Peter 2:4-8*). How have you seen the truth about Jesus bring both judgment and blessing?

Apply: What responses to the coming of Christ do you see in this passage? How can your life reflect similar responses during this Christmas season?

Pray: Ask God to give the people of our church hearts that find comfort in Christ's birth, that marvel at the glory of God, and that are eager to share news of Christ's coming with others.

Luke 2:21-35.

^[21] And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ^[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."

^[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. ^[27] And he came in 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] 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."

^[33] And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ^[34] And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ^[35] (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." (ESV)