

### ***“Simeon: Still Rejoicing over Jesus”***

Down through the years, God has always made my life richer and fuller by the presence of Godly older people who were filled with His Word and the Spirit. This month of December, we are going to look at Seasoned Saints and receive a gift from them at Christmas.

When I think of older men, I begin with my Dad. Then men like W.H. Hayes, Dwight Teal, Dr. Jess Hendley.

Today, we look at Simeon and then next Sunday we going to hear from Bro. Joe Eady.

Let me give you two suggestions of who Simeon was:

1. Devout man who kept coming to the Temple.
2. Priest who was serving that day as Mary came for the purification of herself some 40 days after the birth of Jesus according to Leviticus 12.

Nevertheless, we see....

#### **I. Anticipation of the Messiah**

It would seem that at least half of the fun of an event is the anticipation of it. Even sometimes, the buildup to an event is so great that the actual event is anticlimactic.

Such is the way with Christmas. We dream, we plan, we prepare. As a child, some time it is even difficult to go to

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sleep on Christmas Eve as “visions of sugarplums” dance in our head.

But as an adult, it is different. Now the joy is for others - your children, your spouse, your grandchildren.

But anticipation intensifies an event - whether it be Christmas, a wedding, the birth of a child or a the first day on a new job.

Simeon experienced a keen sense of anticipation for the coming of the Messiah. This scene had been building since the fall of Adam in the Garden when it was promised a “seek” of the woman would come and crush our enemy. (Genesis 3:15).

Other Old Testament prophets, priests, kings, and singers joined in the message proclaiming a Messiah - a Redeemer would come.

Then angels joined in bringing news when Gabriel was sent to Nazareth to a virgin telling her that she would “conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.” (Luke 1: 31)

Then an angel announced to the Shepherds “good tidings of great joy - a Savior is born.” Other angels gathered in the sky above the Shepherds to herald His coming. (Luke 2: 10, 13-14).

Then there are these two Seasoned Saints - Simeon and Anna. We know Anna was at least 84 years old and could have been 105.

We don't know the age of Simeon, but we know his character and reputation and it was one filled with integrity. Look at in more depth as Luke 2: 25 describes him:

- \* He was righteous - a man who is upright, virtuous, one committed to living life on God's terms.
- \* He was devout - one who reveres God and allows that reverence to impact his life through decisions and actions.
- \* He was looking forward - He was looking for the consolation of Israel - reference to the Messiah. He was looking back at the "good ole days" but was fixated on the future. He lived daily in the white heat of expectancy that God was about to do something and it would be marvelous to behold.
- \* the Holy Spirit was upon him - The text literally reads he was "in the Spirit." This was the same phrase used of John in Revelation 1.

This was not some "I know He is there, but don't get to carried away with it" type. It says in verse 26 that "the Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not see death until he had seen the Christ." Now that is more than a presence, that is a person you talk with.

Then note verse 27 that it was the Spirit that led to the temple. This was no coincidence. It was not just being at the right place at the right time. It was the Spirit leading him.

What a promise - you won't die until you have personally seen the Promised One. He wrote his own obituary and it read, "When I die, He's here."

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Life must have hope. He had a hope founded in the person of Jesus Christ that he would see the Christ.

With each child that he would perform the ritual with, he would hold and wonder “Is this the one?” He would look into his eyes and wait for the Holy Spirit to say, “That’s Him.”

Simeon was “blessing God.”

## **II. Proclamation of the Messiah**

When they brought him Jesus, he received him - took him up in his arms and blessed God with this proclamation.

If Simeon was not a priest, then maybe he approached them. If he was the priest, when Mary and Joseph came into the Temple area to make her sacrifices for purification (Lev. 12), he notices the child and takes him up.

When he takes him up, he begins to make a proclamation. But what was more bizarre than the actions here was the content of the proclamation: a verification of what they had heard nine months earlier.

The Holy Spirit will verify what the Holy Spirit said and does.

Simeon’s initial response, “I am at peace.” All of his anticipation was not as great as the revelation. What he had imagined was not as great as the actual event. He had seen the Christ - and he was complete - whole - at peace. Now, let me depart. Let me die and I’m dying as a whole man.

Oh, what this says -

1. That Christ alone satisfies.

King Solomon with all of his wealth, wisdom, pleasure, prestige declared “life is vanity.” Empty. And he hated life. But Jesus came “that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

When a person comes to Christ experiencing his love, leadership, then he can join with the people on the Taco Bell commercial and say, “I’m full.”

Christ alone is the one who can give you bread where you will never hunger again, give you water where you will never thirst again.

2. Don’t die without Jesus.

Don’t leave this world without Jesus Christ.

### **III.Revelation of the Messiah**

As Simeon speaks to Mary and Joseph, it is like “I have good news and I have bad news.” Good news and bad news seems to travel together.

Good news -

1. God is faithful.

God has fulfilled His promises. At least 73 specific promises written in the OT were fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah.

## 2. God saves.

The old Jew, Simeon, proclaimed that the baby he held was a “light for revelation to the Gentiles.” He saw what was happening in this Jewish Temple was going to be for the entire world.

## Bad news - Luke 2: 34-35

A grave prophecy about this one’s life. While there is much joy at his birth, the final steps of this man’s life will be tough and it will be tough for Mary.

His suffering was tough.

The sword of this news cut deep within her heart. The pain of childbirth only experienced days ago would only be a hint of the pain of her heart when she watches him die on a cross.

This once again reminds us that the birth of Christ is only a step or two in the process by which he will save the world. Those steps eventually leads to Egypt, back to Palestine and through the small towns, villages, and even the Temple before going to Calvary.