

“The Song of Simeon”

Luke 2:25-35

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I. Introduction

- A. Simeon’s Song is called “The Nunc Dimittis.” It is the Latin translation of the two words “now depart or dismiss” (v. 29)
- B. Jesus the Savior is now born (v. 11)
 - 1. The scene now shifts from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, where Joseph and Mary present Jesus in the temple. (vv. 21-24)
 - a) Jesus is circumcised and named (v. 21)
 - b) They pay the five shekels to redeem him (vv. 22-23)
 - c) They offered two turtledoves or pigeons for Mary’s purification (v. 24)
 - 2. Jesus was born under the Law
 - a) “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Galatians 4:4-5).
 - b) He paid the Law’s penalty when He died on the cross
 - 3. Coming into the temple, they encountered:

II. The Man Who Sings (Luke 2:25-27)

- A. His name was Simeon (v. 25)
 - 1. “God had heard”
 - 2. All we know about Simeon is found here in Luke (the information found in Luke 1-2 is not found in any other gospel)
 - 3. He’s one of the little people of Christmas
 - 4. Luke does not tell us:
 - a) His age
 - b) His occupation
 - c) What he looked like
 - d) Whether he was rich or poor
- B. There are four things God, the Holy Spirit, wanted us to know about him (v. 25)
 - 1. He was “just” or “righteous” (v. 25)
 - a) “Right with God” by faith
 - 2. He was devout (v. 25)
 - a) It’s cautious to keep God’s laws
 - b) He lived in the fear of God
 - c) “The secret of the Lord is with those who fear him” (Psalm 25:14).
 - 3. He was expectant
 - a) “Waiting for the consolation of Israel” (v. 25)
 - b) His faith: he believed in God
 - 4. He had the Holy Spirit upon him (v. 25)
 - a) The Holy Spirit revealed to him (v. 26)
 - b) The Holy Spirit led him (v. 27)
 - c) The Holy Spirit put a song in his heart

5. Us, too, when we are:
 - a) Righteous before God
 - b) Cautious to obey His Word
 - c) Expectantly looking for His coming
 - d) Filled with His Spirit
6. Someone said of Simeon:
 - a) His eyes were expecting God's promise
 - b) His heart was experiencing God's peace
 - c) His lips were expressing God's praise

III. The Song Simeon Sings (Luke 2:28-32)

A. It was a worship song (vv. 28-29)

1. He took the baby Jesus up in his arms (v. 28)
 - a) Did he kiss the baby? If so, he kissed the face of God
2. He blessed God (v. 28)
3. He calls him "Lord" or "sovereign master" (v. 29)
 - a) He calls himself "servant" (v. 29)
4. "Let me depart in peace according to your Word" (v. 29)
 - a) A picture of death
 - b) A prisoner
 - c) A ship
 - d) A tent (2 Corinthians 5)
 - e) Simeon was ready to die. Are you?
 - 1) Will you die with praise on your lips and peace in your heart?
 - 2) You will if He is your Lord.

B. It was a salvation song (vv. 30-31)

1. Simeon was looking at a baby (v. 30)
 - a) Salvation is a person
 - b) It's not a ceremony, a creed, or a conduct
 - 1) It's Christ
 - 2) The baby Jesus was and is God's salvation
 - 3) Illustration- "For God so loved the world He gave his only begotten son..." (John 3:16)
 - 4) Like Simeon, we must put our faith and trust in Jesus and nothing else
2. God prepared for us a Savior (v. 31)
 - a) It means Jesus is fit to save
 - b) How is Jesus fit to save us?
 - 1) He is God
 - 2) He is a man (He was sinless)
 - 3) He died on the cross to save us
 - 4) He is grace and truth (John 1:14)
 - 5) He rose from the dead and lives to save all who call upon his name
3. It was a missionary song (vv. 31b-32)
 - a) "Before the face of all people" (v. 31b)
 - b) "A light to lighten the Gentiles" (v. 32a)
 - c) "...and the glory of thy people Israel" (v. 32b)

- d) “For God so loved the world” (John 3:16)
 - 1) Jesus came to die for the sins of all
- e) There is only one way (John 14:6)
- f) Jesus is the light of the world

IV. Simeon Stopped Praising and Started Prophecy (Luke 2:33-35)

- A. Why did Joseph and Mary marvel? (v. 33)
 - 1. Simeon uses three images to explain the effect Christ’s coming would have
- B. The stone (v. 34)
 - 1. “The fall” and “rising” in Israel. Christ’s two comings
 - 2. The fall of the unsaved because they rejected Christ
 - 3. Raising the saved because they believe in Christ
 - 4. “Fall and rising” (one person)
 - 5. Jesus said, “Fall on this stone and be broken,” or “the stone will fall on you”
 - a) He’s the stone of stumbling
 - b) The rock of salvation
 - c) Which is it for you?
- C. The sign (v. 34b)
 - 1. Jesus shows where your heart is
- D. The sword (v. 35)
 - 1. Greek “sword” or “a large sword”
 - a) Literally “constantly piercing”
 - 2. It’s the pain Mary would experience watching her son be rejected and crucified
 - a) Illustration- Mary at the cross

V. Conclusion

- A. God provided the perfect substitute for your sin
- B. You must accept Him by faith
 - 1. Salvation is a gift
- C. Only then will you be ready to depart in peace
 - 1. Are you?