

**Luke 2:21-40** – “The Appointed Christ”

A. Charles Wesley wrote a hymn titled, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus.”

— To say that the Christ— the Messiah – was long-expected is an understatement.

B. The promise of the Messiah’s coming began immediately after the fall of our 1<sup>st</sup> parents. God pronounced judgment on Satan while also promising His ultimate work of deliverance: To Satan, God said: **“I will put enmity [state of warfare] between you & the woman, & between your seed & her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, & you shall bruise him on the heel” (Gen 3:15).**

—There has been a lineage of saints who have long expected the coming Messiah.

C. Look at the context for today’s passage.

1. Joseph & Mary are bringing Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem for His circumcision & to make a sacrifice to the Lord because He was the first child to open Mary’s womb.

2. As the small family enter the temple, **v27** says there was a man waiting for them.

God calls you to embrace the appointed Savior, Jesus Christ.	I. SAINTS LOOKING FOR REDEMPTION II. SIMEON’S PRAYER & PROPHECIES
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I. **SAINTS LOOKING FOR REDEMPTION** Today’s text mentioned 2 persons by name.

A. Simeon → **vv25-28**

1. This man is very reminiscent of the prophets of the OT— a man who was directed by the Holy Spirit. He was able to give forth prophecy by the Holy Spirit as well.

a. There is no evidence that he was a priest, scribe, or Levite. He was a lay, holy man.

c. What made Simeon great & devout was that he was a student of Holy Scripture.

2. This righteous & devout man was **“looking for the consolation of Israel.”**

a. The Greek word for **“consolation”** here is “paraklesin” which comes from the same root word for the Paraclete or “Comforter” who Jesus promised to send to us (**Jn 14:16f**).

b. The **“consolation”** is help or comfort God promised to Israel long ago.

3. Simeon knew that God’s promises of comfort, help, & salvation would come to fulfillment by means of the Messiah (the Christ or anointed-One). (**v26**) **“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. **v27** says **“he came in the Spirit into the temple.”** That is another way of saying that the Holy Spirit led him to the temple at just the right, appointed time.

b. We can imply that this same Holy Spirit led him to recognize the child Messiah as He & His family entered the temple. He then took the newborn Jesus into his arms (**v28**).

c. In **v26**, because of his awaiting death, this suggests Simeon was a much older man.

B. Anna → **vv36-38**

a. Even at the age of 84, Anna’s response was to be active to tell others how she had seen the Lord’s Christ. → (**2<sup>nd</sup> ½ of v38**)

b. These 2 aged saints were not the only ones who looked for God’s redemption. Anna knew of others & she re-ignited the fires of their long-awaited hope for salvation through the Christ child.

## II. SIMEON'S PRAYER & PROPHECIES → v29

- A. For Simeon to have held, touched, & seen the blessed Christ— the Savior, you can understand him saying that he could truly **“depart in peace.”**
1. Based on Scripture, each of you have reasons for hope & joy to depart from this life in the peace of a steadfast faith.
  2. If you truly believe the things written in this Holy Bible, you are the blessed ones Jesus spoke about in **Mat 13:16-17** **“But blessed are your eyes, because they see; & your ears, because they hear. <sup>17</sup> For truly I say to you that many prophets & righteous men desired to see what you see, & did not see it, & to hear what you hear, & did not hear it.”**
    - a. Simeon is such a prophet & righteous man.
    - b. Yes, He saw Jesus in the flesh & had saving faith in Him, yet we have been a much fuller revelation of what Christ came to teach & accomplish for our redemption.
    - c. Simeon believed in Christ through many types & shadows, yet we have the whole counsel of God in a complete canon of Scripture.
    - d. If you believe your Holy Bible, on your death bed you have greater cause than Simeon to say by faith, **“Now Lord, you are releasing your bond-servant to depart in peace...(for) according to your word, my eyes have seen your salvation” (vv29-30).**
- B. In Simeon's prayer, he praised God for the wide scope of His great salvation in Christ → **vv30-32**
1. This part of Simeon's prayer is likely derived from the prophecies of Isaiah. → **Isa 9:1-2 & 42:1-7**
    - a. God's promised salvation was to extend to the nations (Hebrew “goyim”)
    - b. Other passages allowed for gentile proselytes to become Israelites. This only happened in a tiny trickle.
    - c. What Simeon saw through Isaiah's prophecies was that God was going to open up the floodgates of salvation to the nations!
  2. God's **“light of revelation to the Gentiles”** has been evidenced throughout history.
- C. After hearing Simeon's prayer, Joseph & Mary **“were amazed at the things which were being said about Him” (v33)**. After this Simeon blessed them & gave a prophecy to Mary His mother → **vv34-35**
1. He foretold Mary's immense grief of soul.
  2. The prominent religious elites of Hebrew society rejected the long-awaited Christ.
    - Natural branches of the olive tree were broken off so that we as wild branches could be grafted in (**Rom 11:17-20**)
      - a. Each of you gathered for worship are a testimony, a partial fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy that was repeated by Simeon.
      - b. Jesus will continue to be that Light to every tribe, tongue, & nation.
      - d. The people of the Jewish religion who have largely rejected Christ will be provoked to jealousy when the fullness of the gentiles has come in (**Rom 11**). This is a further fulfillment how Jesus Christ will be **“the glory of ... Israel.”**

Review, further application, & conclusion: