

# The Patient Anticipation of Simeon

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

Selected Scriptures

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**Isaiah 9:6–7**, *For to us a **child is born**, [humanity] to us a **son is given**; [His deity] and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

## I. The Devoted Life (Luke 2:25-27a)

**Luke 2:25–27**, *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. 27a And he came in the Spirit into the temple,*

- A. What does Simeon (Simon) mean?
  - 1. To hear; to be heard; and reputation (Genesis 29) “God has heard”
- B. Who was he?
  - 1. He was righteous – Simeon’s life was transformed by grace.
    - a) **Romans 3:10–12**, *As it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; **11** no one understands; no one seeks for God. **12** All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”*
    - b) **Job 15:14**, *What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous?*
    - c) **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
    - d) **Proverbs 20:9**, *Who can say, “I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin”?*
    - e) **Genesis 15:6**, *And he [Abraham] believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.*
  - 2. He was devout.
    - a) Devout - exhibiting careful religious practice and proper veneration toward God (God-fearing) (used 4 times in the NT Acts 2:5; 8:2; 22:12; Luke’s word)
    - b) Devout (in Webster’s)
      - (1) Yielding solemn and reverential attention to God in religious exercises, particularly prayer.
      - (2) Pious; devoted (Scripture, Church, Worship, Christ)
- C. What was he doing?
  - 1. Waiting – staying on at rest in expectation and patience.
  - 2. To attend to; look watchfully, purposefully.
- D. What was his motivation?
  - 1. Led by God’s Spirit (hand / glove)
  - 2. *it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.*
- E. Who was he looking for? “the Lord’s Christ”

## II. The Displayed Love (Luke 2:27b-33)

**Luke 2:27b–33**, *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.*

- A. The promised consolation had come (27b-28)
  - 1. Prophetically Foretold

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- a) **Isaiah 40:1–4**, *Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 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. 3 A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.*
  - b) **Isaiah 49:13**, *Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.*
  - c) **Isaiah 51:3**, *For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.*
  - d) **Isaiah 57:18**, *I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners,*
  - 2. Eagerly Anticipated
    - a) **Luke 2:38**, *And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.*
    - b) **Luke 23:50–51**, *Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, 51 who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God.*
  - B. The peace of the departing servant (29) (Death, for a believer, is only a departure from a “day’s” work.
  - C. The fulfillment of the ancient promises (30)
    - 1. Salvation – here it is defined as the “means by which people experience divine salvation
    - 2. **Isaiah 52:10**, *The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*
    - 3. **Psalms 98:2–3**, *The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*
    - 4. Jesus was the “means” by which salvation would be experienced.
  - D. The preparation in the presence of all people (31–33)
    - 1. The Shock (Jew and Gentile)
    - 2. The Promise
      - a) A light for revelation to the Gentiles
      - b) The glory of God’s people Israel.

### **III. The Declared Purpose (Luke 2:33–35)**

**Luke 2:33–35**, *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.”*

- A. Marvel – to be in awe. Wonder at the events of the day.
- B. The Fall and Rising - **1 Corinthians 1:23–24**, *But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*
- C. The Sword (35)