

“What Do You Expect?”
Charlie Lehardy, 12.27.20

Thirty days after Jesus' birth, an elderly Jew named Simeon entered God's temple not expecting much. He left the temple rejoicing; he had held the promised Messiah in his arms and had seen the salvation of Israel with his own eyes. What about you? What do you expect from the living God today?

Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the LORD.” So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—“either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!” Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.” [Luke 2:22-35](#)

WHAT WAS ISRAEL EXPECTING?

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!” [Isaiah 9:6-7](#)

WHAT DO WE EXPECT?

- We expect God to speak to us through his Word: [Hebrews 4:12](#)
- We expect God to walk with us through life: [John 14:16-17](#)
- We expect God to reveal himself through us: [2 Corinthians 5:20](#)
- We expect God to hear and answer our requests: [James 1:5](#)

EXPECTATION AND HOPE: PETER’S EXPERIENCE

In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. [1 Peter 5:10](#)