

# The Hope of Simeon

Aron Osborne

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation  
<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> 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 <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> 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. – Luke 2:22-38

## More Eager, More Expectant than Most Years?

*Does our waiting and longing look like Simeon's waiting and longing?*

## The Time of Purification

"And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtle doves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her, and she shall be clean." – Leviticus 12:8

"Our Lord Jesus was not born in sin, and did not need that mortification of a corrupt nature, or that renewal unto holiness, which were signified by circumcision. This

ordinance was, in his case, a pledge of his future perfect obedience to the whole law, in the midst of sufferings and temptations, even unto death for us.”<sup>1</sup>

“For you the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” – 2 Corinthians 8:9

“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.” – Luke 2:25

“...a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.” – Luke 2:32

“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;  
<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation...” – Luke 2:29-30

“Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory.” – 1 Peter 1:8

“There is no such thing as righteousness devoid of Christ-centered *anticipation*; no such thing as devotion that lacks Christ-embracing *hope*. Biblical holiness is not just performing the right duties and using the right words and knowing the right doctrine. Biblical holiness means having a hope-driven heart like Simeon’s. It means channeling the entirety of your desire and your longing and your anticipation toward the glorious Savior of the world whose redemption has surged into the world and flooded us with grace as far as the curse is found. It means looking forward to the coming of Christ so intently that you really can be described with a single action word, like Simeon: *waiting*.”<sup>2</sup>

In conclusion, we must be spiritually in tune with God and build our lives around worshiping God. Simeon had many disappointments in his life to worry over, much to bemoan, lots to regret. Anna too. But they did not dwell on life’s rough ride. Instead, they, even in their old age, looked to God’s future with hope. Their secret was in their worship and expectation for God. They built their lives around worshiping and praising God. Worship and praise were natural to them; worship and praise were the center of their lives. Nothing is so bleak as a day without tomorrow. With God, however, every day, every week, every year has hope. Neither old age nor grim circumstances should keep us from God’s comfort. We must take Simeon and Anna’s examples and look ahead to God’s great plan for us and the world. We must do our best to be spiritually in tune with God; righteous, devout, looking forward to the consolation and

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew Henry

<sup>2</sup> Unsure of Author, not mine.

redemption of our nation, with the Spirit resting upon us. We must build our lives around worshiping and praising God. Then God will never disappoint us. May God use us as Simeons and Annas in this dark generation. – Stuart Townend