

SIMEON – ANNA – JOSEPH

A. **It is pleasant** to think about the future when we can anticipate something good happening.

B. **When Jesus was born**, Israel was anticipating the Prophet like Moses, which the Lord had promised through Moses (**Deut 18:17-19**).

1. In Luke's gospel there is a word used that speaks of that anticipation.

a. It is the word "waiting" or "looked for": *to await with confidence or patience* (Thayer).

C. **Prior to Jesus' birth**, some Jews were patiently & confidently *waiting* for the promised Christ.

1. And they had an image of what they thought He ought to be like, but He turned out to be quite different from what they expected.

a. He turned out to be a Savior of of souls rather than a Protector of national boundaries.

b. He turned out to be a humble servant, & not of a leader of troops.

c. Therefore, most of His people saw no purpose for Him in their nation.

[And yet there were 3 people who waited in hope—looking for a bright new day—when God would send His Anointed King into the world to fulfill God's promises to Israel.]

I. **SIMEON: Waiting For The Consolation Of Israel**

A. (**Luke 2:25-35**) – **Simeon understood** more about Jesus than the entire Jewish nation would ever accept; he knew that Jesus' appearance meant many things:

1. The thoughts of men's hearts would be revealed.

2. Jesus' mother would face much sorrow.
3. His nation would be divided over Him.
4. He would bring the light of truth to the nations.
5. He would bring salvation to the world.
6. He would bring consolation (comfort) to Israel.
4. So Israel hoped that their Messiah would comfort them by elevating the nation to the highest level of prominence in the world.
5. That was the view of the day, but somehow I think Simeon had a better understanding of the kind of Consolation God would bring to Israel.

B. Notice how the translators capitalized the word "Consolation" (vs. 25).

1. They knew the word referred to a Person, & Simeon understood that too.
2. In fact the Jews equated "Consolation" with the coming of their Messiah.
3. Because for much of their history they had been under the harsh control of other nations; year after year, century after century the Jews answered to a stronger national power.

C. HOW did Simeon know that he should be "waiting for the Consolation of Israel"?

1. He did have the advantage of the H.S. (Luke 2:25), but the Spirit only revealed to Simeon what was already contained in Scripture.

Isa 40:1-8 – "**Comfort, yes, comfort My people!**" Says your God. 2 "**Speak comfort to Jerusalem**, & cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins." [Here comes the comfort] 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness:" Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted & every mountain & hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight & the rough places smooth (Luke 3:4-6). 5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, & all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken" (lesson text: Luke 2:32). 6 The voice said, "Cry out!" & he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, & all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass

withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” (1 Pet 1:24-25)].

[Simeon “waited” for something that only those who have answered the call of the gospel of Christ may have: “everlasting consolation” (2 Thess 2:13-17).]

II. ANNA: Looked For Redemption In Jerusalem

A. (Luke 2:36-38) – Anna too, like Simeon, had been patiently & confidently waiting for Christ.

1. She had been fasting & praying in the Temple literally for decades, after becoming a widow.
2. What was she so concerned about that she would go without food? What was she praying about? Redemption in Jerusalem!

a. “Redemption” means deliverance or liberation; it has to do with the price paid for freedom—freedom from captivity or enemy control.

b. Israel needed redemption for the same reason she needed comfort: she was under enemy control.

c. But Israel could never accept that the enemy she needed redemption from was not another nation, but from Satan (Acts 26:18; Heb 2:14-15)

B. HOW did Anna know that she should “look for redemption in Israel”?

1. She too, like Simeon, could read in the Scripture about redemption for her people.

Psa 130 – This Psalm was composed during the captivity; & contains the complaint of the afflicted Jews, with their hopes of the remission of those sins which were the cause of their sufferings, & their restoration from captivity to their own land. This is a penitential Psalms.

1 Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD; 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. 3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, & in His word I do hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning--Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. 7 **O Israel, hope in the LORD; for with the LORD there is mercy, & with Him is abundant redemption.** 8 **And He shall redeem Israel from all iniquities.** Israel thought her redemption would be fulfilled by being released from her captors & returning to her land to be ruled by the Christ (a David-like King).

[Anna “looked for” something that those who are in Christ have already received: “redemption” (Eph 1:7; 1 Pet 1:18-19)]

The next event happened at the end of Jesus life on the earth.]

III. JOSEPH: Waiting For The Kingdom Of God

A. (Luke 23:50-53) – Joseph, like Israel, had been anticipating a new “kingdom”.

1. In fact, it was the new kingdom that was to bring them consolation & redemption, but not in the way they expected.

B. HOW did Joseph know that he should be “waiting for the kingdom of God”?

Dan 2:44 – And *in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; & the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces & consume all these kingdoms, & it shall stand forever.*

John 18:33, 36-37 – Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, & said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ... 36 Jesus answered, "**My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.**" 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "**You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, & for this cause I have come into the world,** that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Mark 9:1 – Began in the lifetime of many who heard Jesus teach.

Acts 1:8; 1 Cor 4:20 – Came with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matt 16:18; 18:18 – Power enabled the apostles to be ambassadors for Christ.

Acts 2:36 – Ruled over by Jesus Christ from heaven.

Rom 14:17 – A reign that results in righteousness, peace & joy.

John 3:3-5 – Entered into by a new birth of water & Spirit.

CLOSING

A. We don't really know how much Simeon, Anna & Joseph understood about the "kingdom of God", but we do know that they were "waiting for" it & anticipating its arrival.

B. Those things that they were "waiting for" & "looking for" can be - AND ARE - ours today.

1. The "consolation" or comfort of God (2 Thess 2:16).
2. The "redemption" from & forgiveness of sins through Christ (1 Pet 1:18-19).
3. The "kingdom" of God & His dear Son (John 3:3, 5).

C. What are you "looking for, waiting for?" Simeon, Anna, & Joseph knew what they were waiting for.

1. The Christian is waiting for the Lord's return (Acts 1:9-11; John 14:1-3; Col 1:5).

2. If your not a child of God then "what are you waiting for?"

[God has done all He will do

- to redeem (free) you from sin, through J.C.
- to console (comfort) your heart by offering you a place of comfort under the tender care of His Son's rule in the kingdom.

Won't you let Him do that for you today?]

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

Hear or read the gospel of Jesus Christ: Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be Lord, Christ, Son of God and Savior: Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Heb 11:6

Repent and turn from sin: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess faith in Jesus Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Be baptized for the forgiveness of sin and salvation: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; 1 Pet 3:21

Obey the word of Christ, He will be your Judge: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48