

Simeon

“They Were Told”



“And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” Luke 2:26

When we think of the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, we usually think of the Christmas story that we have heard for so many years. But before Luke finished that chapter we all know so well, he tells us about the baptism of Christ and a man called Simeon. From his story, we know that Simeon was a devout follower who believed in the coming Messiah. He believed that God was sending His Son to redeem our world that had become very corrupt. In fact, he believed so strongly that God promised him in a message from the Holy Ghost that he would not die until he had seen God’s revelation to Israel. In just these few verses about Simeon we see the words “*Holy Spirit*” three times. Luke 2:25-32.

The Jewish people were fully aware of the prophecies of the coming of a Messiah from the lineage of David. They expected a grown man that would be hailed as a King of the Jews. He would be their redeemer. This must have been a wonderful promise to Simeon, but I wonder if he expected this King to appear to him as a baby?

Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the temple as was the “*custom of the Law*” Luke 2:27 and presented him to Simeon. Immediately Simeon knew this was the Christ, the Redeemer of his people. He took the child in his arms and blessed him, but the blessing contained something unusual. Along with his announcement blessing the baby, he said: “*Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel.*” Luke 2 29-32. Simeon was now ready to leave this earth. He had seen the Savior. In fact, he had held the Savior in his arms. He was ready to accept death and walk with God. What a wonderful privilege. But we can also hold the Savior in our arms. We have been offered the same promise.

Simeon told Mary and Joseph that their child would see the rising and falling of Israel and a sword would pierce through their soul. I wonder what Joseph and Mary thought about this. For us, it is important to note several things. Notice that the prophecy and blessing was for both Jew and Gentile. In His kingdom, there would be no Jew or Gentile. This was a new world, a spiritual world. God’s mission was to the entire world. He came for all who would believe. Simeon believed. He was willing to accept the promise however it was revealed.



Then Peter said to them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

– Acts 2:38

We think of Heaven and wonder how it will be. Many people have written about the second coming and what Heaven is like, but the passages we see in the Bible are sketchy. Are they that way on purpose? Do we have to have the faith of Simeon that whatever it is, it will be good? Jesus told his disciples that He was going to prepare a place for them, and then He would come and take them to it. But how long was it going to take? What was this place like? Our finite minds want details, but those details aren’t for us to know now. We don’t understand because we can’t see the entire scope of things, and that is good. If we could change things, we would really mess things up.

If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to your mountain, “MOVE!” and it WILL move... and NOTHING will be impossible for YOU!
– Matthew 17:20

Paul wrote to the Philippians *"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."* But we only know this world so we don't want to die. If we have faith, we realize that the next world is without pain and sin, but we don't know it, and we aren't very patient. Simeon had faith. Simeon was an old man who was ready to leave this earth as soon as he saw the Messiah. It is hard to believe that he knew who Christ was when he was taken to the temple by His parents. We see God every day and we can have the same blessing that was given to Simeon.

That promise is for you and me just as it was for the disciples when they were questioning Christ before His death. They didn't understand. I don't think Simeon fully understood everything, but he had faith and that faith made him whole.

So often we have to admit that we question. Why does God allow certain things to happen? Why are some young people taken from this earth so early? Why is a young parent taken when an older grandparent would willingly take his/her place? Why are people starving while some of us have more food than we need? The list goes on and we question.

We aren't going to know those things on this earth. Our life has to be based on faith but no one ever said it would be easy. Our faith is tested many times, but we know that God is going to be there for us every day if we just talk with Him just as he was for Simeon.



*"You are a child of God.
You are Wonderfully made,
Dearly loved, and
Precious in HOS sight."*



And the child grew
and became strong;
He was filled
with WISDOM,
and the GRACE of God
was on Him.
-Luke 2:40

*"Sometimes, we don't
need to understand
everything. We just
need to have a little
faith,"*

Prayer: Dear Lord, You have promised us Eternal Life if we accept You as our personal Savior, yet we so often let our human frailty play a huge role in our decisions. You have promised us many things, yet we doubt. Help us to have the faith of Simeon and know that You are waiting for us and that our life after this earth will be one of blessings we cannot even imagine. Then, help us to declare Your glory to others so that they may also come to know You and trust in You. Amen

1. What do you want to be like at the end of your life?
2. Do you have the confidence that the Lord will take your hand and lead you to the place He has prepared for you?
3. What do you want to have accomplished?
4. Are you willing to be as patient as Simeon?
5. Do you know someone who seems to be filled with the Holy Spirit and approaches life and everything about it with praise and thanksgiving?

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*Thank You God
for everything in my life.
The good & bad.
Some were
Blessings
& some were
Lessons!* 😊