

The Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ Sunday, December 24, 2017
“The Songs of Christmas ~ Nunc Dimittis: The Song of Simeon”
Luke 2:21-35

The prophets spoke of a coming _____ who would deliver the people of Israel, rescuing them from their oppressors, and re-establishing _____ throne.

“The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety.” (Jeremiah 33:15)

Although Simeon had lived his entire life under foreign occupation and influence, he held firm to this _____ of a promised Messiah when many other people had been driven to hopelessness and _____ on one extreme, and passive resignation and _____ of the status quo on the other.

“Simeon was a righteous and devout man, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” (Luke 2:25)

God had put a burning _____ in his heart that he wouldn't _____ until he had seen the Messiah. And so he spent his days _____ and waiting; listening to God and following His _____.

“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32)

Depart = *apolyo* =

WHAT SIMEON'S SONG TELLS US ABOUT JESUS

#1. Simeon's song tells us that Jesus is our _____.
“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people...” (Luke 2:30)

Simeon puts it very simply—to see _____ is to see the _____ of God. This was no _____, God had planned our salvation before the beginning of time.

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.” (Ephesians 1:3-5)

THE RECIPIENTS OF GOD'S GRACE

• _____
“the glory of your people Israel.” (Luke 2:32)

In this baby, Simeon sees the _____ of all the hopes and fears of all the years, echoed by God's people throughout the centuries; and the fulfilment of God's _____ of old, spoken through the _____.

Simeon's point is clear:

JESUS IS...

- “...the _____ of Jesse.” (Isaiah 11:1)
- “_____ : God with us.” (Isaiah 7:14)
- “Wonderful _____; Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of _____.” (Isaiah 9:6)
- “...the Light that has come into the world.” (Isaiah 60:1)

• _____
“...which you have prepared for all people to see. He is the light that will reveal salvation to all the nations...” (Luke 2:31-32)

Simeon doesn't limit the _____ of Jesus' coming to just one group of people—but rather for Jews and _____ alike. Simeon sees in Jesus not just the hope of Israel, but the hope of the _____.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

#2. Simeon's song tells us that Jesus is the _____.
Simeon uses three images to predict that many people will ultimately _____ and _____ the baby he holds in his arms.

• A _____
“Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel...’” (Luke 2:34)

It was Jesus’ _____ to cause some people to _____ on their faces and others to be _____ up.

“He will be a place of safety for you. But he will be a rock that makes people trip and a stumbling block for both kingdoms of Israel. He will be a trap and a snare for those who live in Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 8:14)

Because His message would be _____ and offensive—a challenge to the status quo—many people would _____ Jesus and stumble over Him, like a stone.

“For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:22)

• A _____
“...And to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed.” (Luke 2:34-35)

The light of Christ will expose the _____ hidden in people’s hearts and minds, and reveal their true _____.

“He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.” (Daniel 2:22)

“He will bring into the light of day all that at present is hidden in darkness, and he will expose the secret motives of men's hearts.” (1 Corinthians 4:5)

Almost all evil deeds and intents are begun with the belief that they can be _____ by deceit; however, _____ is always revealed in the light. And as the Light of the World, Jesus will bring everything that’s been hidden in darkness, into His glorious light—and all will be _____ in the end!

• A _____
“...and a sword will pierce your own soul too,” (Luke 2:35)

Simeon is speaking here of the dark shadow of the _____ that falls over Christmas. In doing so, acknowledges that this was no _____ baby.

Simeon’s words _____ that Jesus would grow in wisdom and strength; and as an adult, would teach people about the true _____ of God. That He would live a life of love and _____ service to others—teaching, preaching, and healing. And in a supreme act of love, this baby that he held in his arms, would go from the cradle to the cross—and through His death and resurrection, would bear the weight of our _____, _____ our relationship with God, and provide us with a future hope.

Because of who He is and what He has come to do, Jesus forces people to make a _____ bout him. There’s no room for lukewarm _____ when it comes to Jesus—He’s either the rock that we will _____ our life upon or He’s the rock that we’ll _____ over.

“Don’t think I’ve come to make life cozy. I’ve come to cut—make a sharp knife-cut between son and father, daughter and mother, bride and mother-in-law—cut through these cozy domestic arrangements and free you for God. (Matthew 10:34)

“Hope is called the anchor of the soul because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a wish (I wish that such-and-such would take place); rather it is that which latches onto the certainly of the promises of the future that God has made.” --R. C. Sproul

Hope, isn’t just _____ thinking; it isn’t dreaming about something or fantasizing; it’s more than just _____ thinking. In fact, it’s not based on how _____ think at all, but rather “latches onto the certainty of the promises of God.” Hope isn’t optimism—it’s not trusting in ourselves, but in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

It’s all about Jesus! Simeon knew this...do you?