

# The True Light of Christmas

Luke 2:21-38

December 27, 2020

Introduction: Jesus the Savior (21-24)

## 1. Simeon

### a. Simeon's Character (25-27)

- i. He was righteous and devout, though probably not a priest (25a).
- ii. He was full of faith "waiting for the consolation of Israel" (25b).
- iii. He was Spirit-led (25c-27).
  1. The Holy Spirit was upon him (25c)
  2. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not die before he saw the Messiah (26).
  3. The Holy Spirit led him to the temple (27).
- iv. Application: Live like you're expecting the Lord to return at any moment!

### b. Simeon's Psalm (28-32)

- i. Simeon's Savior (28-30)
- ii. The World's Savior (31-32).
  1. A light to lighten the Gentiles (32a).
    - a. Psalm 98:2-3 "The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."
    - b. Isaiah 52:10 "The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."
    - c. Isaiah 60:1-3 "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising."
  2. The glory of Thy people Israel (32b).
- iii. Application: Believe the promises! He's coming again!

### c. Simeon's Prophecy (33-35).

- i. Jesus would be a sign that would be spoken against (33).
  1. This is the first NT prophecy concerning rejection of the Messiah.
  2. Isaiah 53:3-4 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
  3. Ps. 22:1, 16 "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me...they pierced my hands and my feet."
- ii. Jesus would occasion the fall of some and the rise of others.
  1. The nation as a whole would reject their Messiah and be subsequently destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.
  2. Some would accept Jesus as their Messiah and rise to co-heirs with Christ!
- iii. Jesus would expose the hearts of many (35b).
  1. The Religious Jews exposed their sinfulness in crucifying their innocent Messiah.
  2. The atheist exposes himself when he curses Christ and God.
  3. The lost man exposes himself when he ignores Christ.
- iv. Jesus' death would cause His mother pain (35a).
  1. Mary's heart would bear the wounds of her Son's rejection and crucifixion.
  2. This is addressed only to Mary, possibly a veiled prophecy of Joseph's death.
- v. Application: What will you do with Jesus?

## 2. Anna

### a. Anna's Background

- i. She was a prophetess, of the tribe of Asher. Her forefathers had been taken into captivity for idolatry only to return to the land of Israel and turn to sins of a different kind.
- ii. She was a widow of 84 years old. The tribe of Asher was known for their beautiful women, and it would have likely very easy to remarry.

### b. Anna's Ministry

- i. Rather than remarry, she chose to spend her time continually in the temple.
- ii. She spent her time fasting and praying.
  1. Her prayer and fasting was likely mourning over the sins of Israel.
  2. As Anna worshipped daily in the temple, she would have witnessed the priests' extortion and the Pharisees' hypocrisy.
  3. She would have had great cause for prayer and fasting.
- iii. As a prophetess, she was likely speaking out against the sins of Israel and pleading for them to return to prepare for the "Day of the Lord."
  1. Joel 2:12- "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?"

### c. Anna's Testimony (38)

- i. The Holy Spirit brought Anna to the temple "in that instant" to witness and confirm Simeon's words.
- ii. Anna relayed the news to all the believing Jews like herself.

### d. Application:

- i. Anna gives us a great example of one who is preparing for the Lord's return.
- ii. She lived her life in the service of God.
- iii. She spent much time in prayer for her people.
- iv. She anticipated Christ's coming.

## Conclusion:

1. Can you say with Simeon that you are ready to die because you've met the Savior?
2. Does your life show like Anna that you are ready for Christ's return and are you telling others?