

Anticipated

Dec. 27, 2020

Luke 2:25-38

In Luke 2, we find a couple of people anxiously waiting on the Messiah. The first one mentioned is Simeon. At some point, Simeon was given a word by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Christ. The Israelite people, as a whole, had not heard from the Lord for 400 years, but we see in Simeon's life that God was still active in the lives of individuals. The Jews anticipated a coming Messiah, but Simeon anticipated a personal promise.



The second person we read about is Anna, who is now eighty-four years old. We do not know if she had been given the same promise, but we do know that she put herself in a position to see Jesus. She “did not leave the temple grounds, serving night and day with fasts and prayers. She no doubt knew about the promises of a coming Messiah. She was anxiously waiting but she was not passively waiting. She waited by serving through prayer and fasting. We have that same opportunity today.

Simeon was led by the Holy Spirit to go to the temple and Anna never left the temple but rather served there night and day. They are an example to us if we want to see Jesus, be led by the Holy Spirit, and be in a position to be in the exact spot God wants us. With the Holy Spirit, guiding us Christians can enter this new year with confidence and the expectation of thriving, not just surviving! [excerpts from Russ Wilkins]

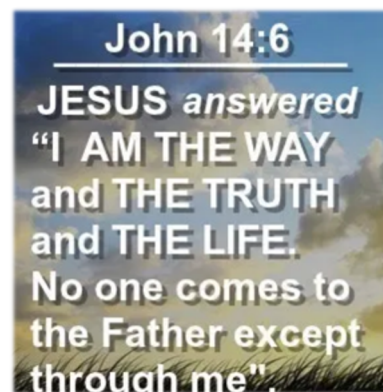
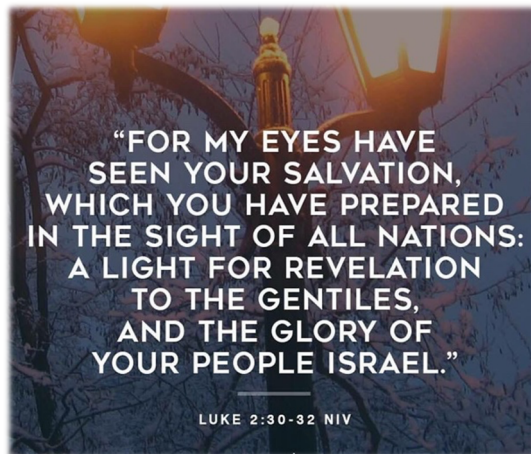
Anticipated (Luke 2:25-27)

- The Christmas story does not end with the birth of Jesus. Joseph and Mary likely stayed in Bethlehem for 12-24 months. Long enough for the wise men to visit (Matthew 2:1-18).
 - On the eighth day, Jesus was circumcised and officially named. (Luke 2:21)
 - After 40 days of purification, Mary and Joseph came to the temple in Jerusalem to make the ritual sacrifices. Two turtledoves indicate they were not wealthy (Luke 2:24)
 - ***“Simeon ... and the Holy Ghost was upon him”*** -So, who was this Holy Spirit who “came upon,” “revealed” and “moved” Simeon there at the dedication of the baby Jesus? The Holy Spirit was just that—a “who,” not an “it.” It was a “he,” a person, whom Simeon met that day.
 - ***“he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ”*** – Simeon, old as he was, had received a promise that he would not die until he had seen God’s Messiah.
 - The Holy Spirit led Simeon to the temple that day. In all the hustle and bustle of thousands of people, Simeon saw the baby Jesus and recognized Him immediately as the promised Messiah.
 - Mary and Joseph had not come that day expecting to meet anyone special, but God was fulfilling His plan.
- **What anticipation did Joseph and Mary have that day?**
- **What do you anticipate for the New Year?**



Recognized (Luke 2:28-35)

- In Hebrews 11:1, Paul says faith ***"is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."***
- Simeon had faith that God would fulfill His promise.
- After Simeon had seen the promise fulfilled, now what?
- ***"He took Him (Jesus) up in his arms and blessed God"***
 - Mary must have been reassured by the Spirit that this man (Simeon) could be trusted.
 - The moment was the culmination of years of waiting and Simeon's joy overflowed with praise.
- Simeon found a sense of peace that is inexplicable. After so many years of anticipation, he had not only seen but held the Messiah in his arms.
- Simeon declared ***"For mine eyes have seen thy salvation."***
 - Salvation is not just found in Jesus, salvation is Jesus.
 - God prepared salvation ***"Which thou hast prepared"***
 - Salvation was not an afterthought to humanity's sin.
- The world was witness to God's preparation of salvation for anyone who would repent and believe
 - ***"A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of the people Israel."***
- The more Mary and Joseph learned about Jesus, the more they were filled with wonder ***"... marveled at those things which were spoken"***
- Simeon spoke directly to Mary and said Jesus was destined to cause ***"the fall and rising again of many in Israel"***. Much turmoil would result from Jesus mission of salvation.
 - Jesus would be spoken against by the religious leaders and for being a light to Gentiles.
- **When God fulfills a promise in our lives how do we react with praise?**
- **Jesus' death and resurrection were for all people. Do we minister to all people in His name?**



Shared (Luke 2:36-38)

- Luke describes in great detail the second witness (Anna) who encountered Jesus that day.
 - A prophetess, daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser, and she was an 84 year-old widow.
 - More importantly, she was a devout worshipper of God ***"departed not from the temple"***
- Anna saw the baby, and heard Simeon's words of praise.
 - ***"She gave thanks likewise unto the Lord"*** – Anna also recognized God's Messiah, Jesus.
- How could this elderly woman recognize Jesus? Most likely the Holy Spirit revealed Him to her.
- Immediately, she began to proclaim (share) the good news ***"to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem"***. She went out beyond the temple walls to share the news!
- Believers must also tell others that redemption is found in Jesus Christ alone. Like Anna and Simeon, we will yearn to share the good news that Jesus is God's salvation.
- **How did you hear about salvation through Jesus?**
- **What motivates you to share the good news with others?**

Biblical Truth:

Jesus is the promised Messiah!

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9-10

