

## The Prophecy

Christmas According to Luke #4 - Speaker Joshua Winslow - December 28, 2025 - Luke 2:25-35

**INTRO:** Good morning church! We're concluding our series, "CHRISTMAS ACCORDING TO LUKE." Today we will dig into this amazing story of how Simeon prophesied over Israel and over Mary and Joseph in a sermon we have appropriately entitled, THE PROPHECY."

**Need:** We will see in our text today that Simeon was waiting for something, longing for the Messiah. Every single person in the room is living in expectation. We are waiting for relief, meaning, validation, healing, or some resolution. The danger is not that we wait, but what we are waiting for. We tend to long for things like success ("If I accomplish more...") or relationships ("If I'm finally loved...") or comfort ("If life just gets easier...") or recognition ("If someone notices me..."). But these things leave us longing for more.

We chase what we think will console us, but instead of relief we often find more pressure, more disappointment, and more emptiness. What if what we are longing for is something far greater? What if we longed for Jesus?

**Trans:** What happens when we don't recognize that God's salvation is through Jesus Christ? We may think that we need to appease God through a religious checklist. We might place our hopes more in an experience rather than in the Savior himself. We could become discouraged and begin to doubt that God has things under control. No, God has prepared it, revealed it, and it will be glorious when we recognize God's salvation through Jesus Christ. Like Simeon, we are longing for something, so let us see what God has done...

**BODY:** In the Gospel of Luke, Simeon rejoiced when he saw God's salvation in Jesus Christ. We can see God's salvation in Jesus Christ. How can we recognize God's salvation through Jesus Christ? The text gives us **three truths** to recognize God's salvation through Jesus Christ.

**Read text:** Luke 2:25-35 (ESV) <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

### THREE TRUTHS TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST:

#### 1. Jesus is God's plan for His creation.

**EXP:** (25-31)

**"Simeon" (25)** (Συμεών, *Symeōn*) - His name means "harkening;" to pay attention; to listen. What an appropriate name for the man who said these incredible things about the child Jesus!

**"Righteous and devout" (25)** (εὐλαβής, *eulabēs*) - carefully and surely; cautiously; reverencing God, pious, religious. He wasn't aloof to the plans of God but seemed to have oriented himself in anticipation of God's plan for His creation. He trusted God and so longed for this Messiah. Our text says he was....

**"Waiting" (25)** (προσδέχομαι, *prosdechomai*) - to await (with confidence or patience); to expect: the fulfillment of promises. He had heard the Word of the Lord and trusted that God would do it. And he is waiting for...

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**"For the consolation of Israel" (25)** (παράκλησις, *paraklēsis*) - exhortation, admonition, encouragement; consolation, comfort, solace; that which affords comfort or refreshment: thus of the Messianic salvation (so the Rabbis call the Messiah the consoler, the comforter) He longed for the Messiah who would bring this comfort.

**"Holy Spirit was upon him" (25)** - Simeon was filled with the Holy Spirit, much like we saw earlier with Elizabeth.

**"Revealed" (26)** (χρηματίζω, *chrēmatisō*) - to be divinely commanded, admonished, instructed; to be the mouthpiece of divine revelations, to promulgate the commands of God

**"He would not see death" (26)** (θάνατος, *thanatos*) - the death of the body

**"Before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (26)** (Χριστός, *christos*) - Christ = "anointed"; Christ was and is the Messiah, the Son of God.

**"When the parents brought ... according to the custom of the Law" (27)** (νόμος, *nomos*) - of the Mosaic law, and referring, acc. to the context. either to the volume of the law or to its contents. Luke tells us this in verses 21-24, that Jesus was circumcised on the 8th day and Mary waited to bring him to the temple after her purification all according to Leviticus 12. Jesus' parents were obedient to the Law and we get this story to build our confidence in Jesus because of it.

**"Blessed God" (28)** (εὐλογέω, *eulogeō*) - to praise, celebrate with praises; to invoke blessings. Simeon takes Jesus into his arms and begins to bless God! Simeon said he could even depart in peace because of this. When we recognize Jesus for who he is, it is our joy, and praise to God! He continues and says this...

**"My eyes have seen your salvation" (30)** (σωτήριος, *sōtērios*) - saving, bringing salvation; he who embodies this salvation, or through whom God is about to achieve it; the hope of (future) salvation. Jesus is salvation to us and for us. He is the plan and he is the embodiment of God's salvation. It has only ever been and will only ever be through faith in the Christ, Jesus the Son of God.

**"Have prepared" (31)** (ἐτοιμάζω, *hetoimazō*) - to make ready, prepare; to make the necessary preparations, get everything ready; metaphor for the ancient custom of sending on before kings on their journeys persons to level the roads and make them passable; to prepare the minds of men to give the Messiah a fit reception and secure his blessings.

**"In the presence of all peoples" (31)** (πρόσωπον, *prosōpon*) - the face and by implication in the presence of. Kdjfaklsdflfasdjkfjlkdasjflks///// NEED A TRANSITIONAL STATEMENT

**ARG:** God revealed His plan of salvation through His promises, prophets, Apostles, and the scriptures:

Genesis 3:15 (ESV) "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- This is called the "Protoevangelium" or the First Gospel showing us that there is a real need for salvation. Mankind has rebelled against God in our sins, but God from the very beginning has promised a deliverer who would defeat the works of Satan. This is what Simeon waited for and identified in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. This redeemer who would save His people!

1 Peter 1:19-21 (NLT) <sup>19</sup> It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. <sup>20</sup> God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through Christ you have come to trust in God. And you have placed your faith and hope in God because he raised Christ from the dead and gave him great glory.

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- Before He created, this was God's one and only plan. It was foreshadowed in the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi, and revealed for our sake now. God is in control, there was no need for a contingency plan.

### Because God planned, you can prepare:

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (ESV) "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

- The writings in the Old Testament were there to make them wise for salvation, so that, when Jesus appeared, they could believe in him.
- We have the New Testament that reveals to us plainly that Jesus is the Christ. We can look and see that all the scriptures point to Jesus as being the Savior.
- God has prepared the way. Are you prepared to see this salvation?

**ILL:** Ceremonial Plans. You prepare for the ceremony (wedding, speaking event, fancy evening) by getting the right clothes, getting a haircut, adjusting your schedule. With a goal in mind you would prepare your days for that awaited event.

**APP:** What is our response to Jesus being God's plan for His Creation?

Notice the language describing the kind of man Simeon was: righteous, devout, and waiting.

- Do you trust God? He is faithful to fulfill his promises. He promises that those who believe in Jesus will be saved, that he is with us until the end of the age, that he is a comforter, a counselor, our peace.
- Orient your life by devoting yourself to God's word.
- Be patient, God is working all things for His purposes.

## 2. Jesus is God's revelation for all nations.

**EXP:** (32a)

**"A light for revelation"** (32) (ἀποκάλυψις, *apokalypsis*) - laying bare, making naked; a disclosure of truth, instruction.

- Because Jesus has come, the plans of God, even the very character of God have been made known to us. God was not discovered. He revealed Himself to us. The disciples once asked to see the Father in Heaven and Jesus says "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." Do you want to know God and what He is doing? Look to Jesus, he is God's revelation for all nations.

**"Gentiles"** (32) (ἔθνος, *ethnos*) - a tribe, nation, people group; in the OT, foreign nations not worshipping the true God, pagans, Gentiles. Salvation is being revealed to all even outside of the covenant people Israel. Simeon, a righteous Jew in the temple, says this is coming to all people. Salvation is not exclusive but reaches the nations. For the Jews, this was information that they had and Jesus was the fulfillment they were waiting for. For Gentiles, this was new altogether! It was like nothing they had ever heard before that Jesus was coming and was going to change everything. They too, if they believed in the name of Jesus would have full access to the throne room of God in prayer, spiritual blessings in the Holy Spirit, and a newfound purpose in life in the light of Jesus Christ, *THEIR* Savior! This is good news.

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**ARG:** Being a light to all nations through His covenant people was always God's plan of salvation:

Isaiah 42:9 (ESV) I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations.

Isaiah 49:6 (ESV) I will make you as a light for the nations, that my **salvation** may reach to the end of the earth.

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**Now in the person of Jesus, that light has shone forth to all nations:**

Isaiah 9:2 (ESV) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

- There is hope for the one who is in deep darkness! When light shines in a dark place we cover our eyes, but do not retreat into the darkness. Come and see what the light reveals.

John 8:12 (ESV) Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**ILL:** 1. In Acts 13, Paul and Barnabas applied this very teaching from Isaiah 49 to their evangelism in the region of Antioch. They preached and found that the nations were able to receive the Gospel of Jesus while some of the Jews resisted it.

2. You will find in Genesis 1 that before God creates life, order, or beauty, He creates light. Indeed, light precedes understanding, direction, and flourishing. Just as physical creation began with light, new creation begins with Christ. Humanity cannot see rightly about God, ourselves, or reality until the light of Christ shines.

3. Before electric lighting, maps and travel were useless at night unless someone carried a lamp. The map was accurate, but invisible without light. Humanity may possess moral instincts, philosophy, or religion. Without Christ, those truths remain unreadable. The problem is not that humanity lacks information, it lacks illumination. (I'm leaning towards using this illustration- Josh)

**APP:** What is our response to Jesus being God's revelation for all nations?

For Eastgate Church, we exist to make disciples of Jesus who have a Heart for God, a Heart for Each Other, and a Heart for our World. Why? Because that is the kind of God we serve! Jesus called us the light of the world and as he has been revealed to us we are to reveal him to others.

For believers in Jesus, part of our response is living in the light. We no longer walk in darkness, but now that Christ is revealed we live as he lives. We do not walk in darkness but in light. We put off the old self and put on the new self that is pleasing to God.

For those who find themselves in "deep darkness" and have not trusted in God's revelation. The response is to believe in Jesus. He is light, God is light, and when we bring our lives into the light things will be revealed but we have a good God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who leads us and helps us to become Children of God who no longer desire to live in darkness.

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### 3. Jesus is God's glory for the faithful.

**EXP:** (32b-35)

**"For glory" (32)** (δόξα, *doxa*) - splendour, brightness; magnificence, excellence, preeminence, dignity, grace.

**"Israel" (32)** (Ἰσραήλ, *israēl*) - the family or descendants of Israel, the nation of Israel; Christians, the Israel of God (Gal 6:16), for not all those who draw their bodily descent from Israel are true Israelites, i.e. are those whom God pronounces to be Israelites and has chosen to salvation.

Romans 11:17 (NLT) But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in.

- When we trust in Jesus, we are counted among the people of God. We are not secondary citizens in the Kingdom but full fledged heirs of it.

**"His father and his mother ... marveled" (33)** (θαυμάζω, *thaumazō*) - marvel; to be wondered at, to be had in admiration

**"This child is appointed" (34)** (κεῖμαι, *keimai*) - of things put or set in any place; to be (by God's intent) set, destined, appointed.

**"For the fall" (34)** (πτῶσις, *ptōsis*) - a falling, downfall.

**"Rising of many" (34)** (ἀνάστασις, *anastasis*) - a raising up, rising.

**"A sign that is opposed" (34)** (ἀντιλέγω, *antilegō*) - to speak against, gainsay, contradict. to oppose one's self to one, decline to obey him, declare one's self against him, refuse to have anything to do with him. The apostle Paul recognized that Israel had received the glory, but that many would reject it:

Romans 9:2-4 (ESV) <sup>2</sup> I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the **glory**, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises.

**"A sword will pierce through your own soul" (35)** (διέρχομαι, *dierchomai*) - to go through, pass through. "Mary too will experience the sorrow of her son's mission being opposed greatly by Israel and ultimately at his crucifixion. The sword described here is a 'large sword' showing us that this will not be a pleasant experience for Mary." "In a way, this is true for us. The cross of Christ can still cause a sense of sorrow, but Christ has overcome the grave which is our joy and hope."...

**"Thoughts from many hearts" (35)** [*thoughts*] (διαλογισμός, *dialogismos*) - the thinking of a man deliberating with himself. a thought, inward reasoning. purpose, design. a deliberating, questioning about what is true. hesitation, doubting. disputing, arguing. [*hearts*] (καρδία, *kardia*) - denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life. the vigour and sense of physical life. the centre and seat of spiritual life. the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavours.

**"May be revealed" (35)** (ἀποκαλύπτω, *apokalyptō*) - to uncover, lay open what has been veiled or covered up. disclose, make bare. to make known, make manifest, disclose what before was unknown. "There is no neutral ground when it comes to the person of Jesus. He will reveal our heart!"

**ARG:** Jesus is the glory of God now revealed to us:

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John 1:14 (ESV) And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**This glory has come to us now through Jesus (the founder of their salvation) through the cross:**

Hebrews 2:10 (ESV) For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

- ILL:**
1. You see continually in the Old Testament a phrase like "The glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle." The people of God, Israel, didn't always recognize that their glory was in the presence of God with them. Israel's glory was never military strength or cultural dominance, it was God dwelling among them. Israel's glory was never what they had, but Who was with them. Jesus is the final and fullest expression of that glory (John 1:14). God no longer dwells in a tent but in a person. (I'm leaning towards this one - Josh)
  2. In John 12 Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified." Jesus calls His crucifixion His moment of glory. Glory and suffering seem inseparable, in fact, Simeon's warning to Mary (v. 35) prepares us for a glory that comes through pain, not around it. The world defines glory as being admired. God defines glory as being faithful.
  3. Jesus says in John 15, "Every branch that bears fruit he prunes." Pruning looks destructive, but it produces greater fruit. Simeon's prophecy shows that Jesus will expose hearts and divide responses. The faithful experience pruning, but pruning leads to lasting glory. God's glory often comes disguised as loss until fruit begins to grow.

**APP:** Church, we have glory because we have Jesus. Jesus has become our glory through His crucifixion and resurrection and has now sent the Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit is the personal presence of God's glory in the life of the believer, revealing and applying the glory of Christ. The glory of the Lord which once filled the temple of Old now fills the Believer who is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19).

So no longer chase the world's kind of glory since you have already received the glory of Christ. Indeed, the world offers glory that fades, but Christ gives glory that remains. So be faithful to Christ in everything: Faithfulness in marriage even when culture applauds selfishness; Faithfulness at work when integrity costs advancement; Faithfulness in suffering even when obedience doesn't remove pain. If Christ is your glory, then losing the world's approval is no longer a tragedy, it is often confirmation that your allegiance is real.

## CONCLUSION:

What are you longing for? Is it something in the New Year: a relationship, success, a goal, a better life?

Could God's salvation be something better to long for? He planned it all before the world began, he has revealed it to all nations, and has promised a future glory to the faithful that believe in Jesus as the Christ.

Will you Recognize God's Salvation through Jesus Christ by believing that:

- Jesus is God's plan for His creation
- Jesus is God's revelation for all nations
- Jesus is God's glory for the faithful?

Let's Pray...