

## **LUKE 2:28-32 -- SIMEON SEES GOD'S SALVATION!**

**2/27/16 Sat Morn Prayer**

*Luke 2:25-33 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. [26] 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. [27] So he came by 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, [28] he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: [29] "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; [30] For my eyes have seen Your salvation [31] Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, [32] A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel." [33] And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him.*

**Simeon was just and devout. Tradition has it that he was 113 years old. He probably was a priest. He was waiting for the Consolation of Israel. Notice how this waiting, having this hope in Him, purifies himself, just as He is pure! 1Jn 3:3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

*[28] he took Him up in his arms* That same Spirit that had revealed unto him that he should not die till he saw the Messiah with his bodily eyes; and who by a secret impulse had moved him to go to the temple just at this time made known unto him that that child which Joseph and Mary then brought into the temple to present to the Lord, was the Messiah; wherefore, in a rapture of joy, he took him out of their arms into his own, embracing him with all affection and respect imaginable!

**and blessed God** praised Him, and gave glory to Him, for His great goodness, in sending the promised Messiah, and long wished for Savior; for His grace and favor, in indulging him with a sight of Him; and for His truth and faithfulness in making good His promise to him:

**and said:** as follows.

*[29] "Lord, now You are letting Your servant -* He acknowledges Him as his Lord, and to have total power over him with respect to life and death; and himself as His servant, which he was, both by creation and grace: and though it expresses humiliation, and a sense of distance and unworthiness, yet to be a servant of the most high God, is a very high and honorable character: what he requests of the Lord is that he might

**depart in peace, According to Your word;** signifying his hearty desire to die, and with what cheerfulness he should meet death, having obtained all that he could wish for and desire, in seeing and embracing the Savior: he expresses his death, by a departure out of the world, which signifies a loosing of bonds; death being a dissolving the bond of union, between soul and body, and a deliverance, as from prison and bondage; the body being, as it were, a prison to the soul in the present state of things: and he also intimates, that whereas, though he had the strongest assurances of the Messiah's coming, and of his coming before his death, by the revelation of the Holy Ghost, and so most firmly believed it, without hesitation of mind; yet as hope deferred makes the heart sick, he was anxious and restless in his desire, till it was accomplished; but now being come, he could take his leave of the world, and his entrance into eternity, with the greatest calmness and tranquility of mind, having nothing to disturb him, nor more to desire: he adds,

*[30] For my eyes have seen Your salvation,....* The Messiah, who is often so called, because the salvation of God's elect is put into His hands, and He has undertaken it; and because He is the author of it, He has fulfilled His engagements, and has accomplished what He promised to do; and because salvation is in Him, it is to be had in Him; and in Him the true Israel of God are saved, with an everlasting salvation: and He is called "God's salvation" because He is a Savior of His choosing, calling, and constituting; whom He promised under the Old Testament dispensation and in the fullness of time sent; and who now appeared in human nature, and whom old Simeon now saw, with His bodily eyes; a sight which many kings and prophets had desired, but were not favored with; and also with the eyes of his understanding, with the spiritual eye of faith, as his Savior and Redeemer; for without this, the former would not have been sufficient to have given such peace and tranquility of mind, in a departure out of this world: for many saw Him in the days of His flesh, who never saw His glory, as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners; but such a sight those have, who have their understandings enlightened, and Christ, as God's salvation, set before them: they see Him in the glory of his person, the fullness of his grace, the suitableness and excellency of his righteousness, the efficacy of his blood, and the perfection of his sacrifice; and as an able, willing, complete, and only Savior: and such a sight of Him, puts them out of conceit with themselves, and their own works of righteousness, as saviors; makes the creature, and all it has and does, look mean and empty; fills the soul with love to Christ, and a high esteem of him, and with joy unspeakable!

**[31] Which You have prepared ,....** In His eternal purposes and decrees, having chosen and foreordained Christ, and appointed Him to be His salvation, to the ends of the earth; in His counsel and covenant of grace wherein it was agreed, determined, and concluded on, that He should be the Savior of his people; and in the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, and in all the types, shadows, and sacrifices, of that dispensation; in which He was exhibited, and held forth as the Savior to the saints and believers of those times; and now had sent Him in human nature, to work out that salvation He had chosen and called him to, and He had undertook:

**before the face of all peoples;** meaning not the congregation of Israel, that looked for redemption in Jerusalem, and who were now together with Simeon and Anna, when the child Jesus was presented in the temple; nor the body of the Jewish nation only, to whom He was made manifest, had they not willfully shut their eyes, by John's ministry and baptism; and more so, by the miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did by Christ, in the midst of them; but both Jews and Gentiles: for, as He was provided and sent as a Savior, and a great One, He was to be lifted up on the cross, as the serpent was lifted up by Moses, in the wilderness, to draw all His elect to Him, of every nation; and to be set up as an ensign to the people, in the public ministry of the word; to be the object of faith and hope, to look unto, for life and salvation.

**[32] A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."** A light of the Gentiles, for revelation. By Moses and the prophets, a light of revelation was given to the Jews, in the blessedness of which the Gentiles did not partake. By Christ and his apostles, a luminous revelation is about to be given unto the Gentiles, from the blessedness of which the Jews in general, by their obstinacy and unbelief, shall be long excluded. But to all true Israelites it shall be a glory, an evident fulfillment of all the predictions of the prophets, relative to the salvation of a lost world; and the first offers of it shall be made to the Jewish people, who may see in it the truth of their own Scriptures indisputably evinced.

#### **SUMMARY:**

- **How wonderful is the finish of this just and devout man, obedient and led by the Spirit!**
- **Expecting most likely to see a mighty political and military leader, he accepts the Consolation of Israel in the little package of a babe, and blesses God!**
- **Totally fulfilled, He is now ready to depart in peace having seen His Salvation – a Light to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel!**

#### **And Can It Be? – Charles Wesley – sung by Billy Graham Choir**

*And can it be that I should gain An int'rest in the Savior's blood? Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued? Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me?*

*Refrain:*

*Amazing love! how can it be That Thou, my God, should die for me!*

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay Fast bound in sin and nature's night; Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; My chains fell off, my heart was free; I rose, went forth and followed Thee. [Refrain]*

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