

SIMEON'S PROPHECY
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Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄνθρωπος ἦν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ ᾧ ὄνομα Συμεὼν καὶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος δίκαιος καὶ εὐλαβῆς προσδεχόμενος παράκλησιν τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ, καὶ πνεῦμα ἦν ἅγιον ἐπ' αὐτόν· ²⁶ καὶ ἦν αὐτῷ κεκηρατισμένον ὑπὸ τοῦ πνεύματος τοῦ ἁγίου μὴ ἰδεῖν θάνατον πρὶν [ἢ] ἂν ἴδῃ τὸν Χριστὸν κυρίου. ²⁷ καὶ ἦλθεν ἐν τῷ πνεύματι εἰς τὸ ἱερόν· καὶ ἐν τῷ εἰσαγαγεῖν τοὺς γονεῖς τὸ παιδίον Ἰησοῦν τοῦ ποιῆσαι αὐτοὺς κατὰ τὸ εἶθισμένον τοῦ νόμου περὶ αὐτοῦ ²⁸ καὶ αὐτὸς ἐδέξατο αὐτὸ εἰς τὰς ἀγκάλας καὶ εὐλόγησεν τὸν θεὸν καὶ εἶπεν, ²⁹ Νῦν ἀπολύεις τὸν δούλόν σου, δέσποτα, κατὰ τὸ ῥήμά σου ἐν εἰρήνῃ· ³⁰ ὅτι εἶδον οἱ ὀφθαλμοί μου τὸ σωτήριόν σου, ³¹ ὃ ἠτοίμασας κατὰ πρόσωπον πάντων τῶν λαῶν, ³² φῶς εἰς ἀποκάλυψιν ἐθνῶν καὶ δόξαν λαοῦ σου Ἰσραὴλ. ³³ καὶ ἦν ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἡ μήτηρ θαυμάζοντες ἐπὶ τοῖς λαλουμένοις περὶ αὐτοῦ. ³⁴ καὶ εὐλόγησεν αὐτοὺς Συμεὼν καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς Μαριάμ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ, Ἴδοὺ οὗτος κείται εἰς πτώσιν καὶ ἀνάστασιν πολλῶν ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ καὶ εἰς σημεῖον ἀντιλεγόμενον ³⁵ -καὶ σοῦ [δε] αὐτῆς τὴν ψυχὴν διελεύσεται ῥομφαία,- ὅπως ἂν ἀποκαλυφθῶσιν ἐκ πολλῶν καρδιῶν διαλογισμοί

Luke 2:25-35 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. 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 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, 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 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. JOY & PAIN IN THE GOSPEL
- 0.2. SIMEON'S SPEECH

1. SIMEON SEES JESUS

- 1.1. A LITTLE BABY
- 1.2. SALVATION FOR THE WORLD
- 1.3. THE GLORY OF ISRAEL

2. THE FALL AND RISING OF MANY

- 2.1. FALL
- 2.2. RISING

3. HEARTS REVEALED

- 3.1. MARY'S EXPERIENCE WITH JESUS
- 3.2. SUFFERING AND THE HEART

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. JOY & PAIN IN THE GOSPEL

- Exodus from Egypt → Ex 12:8 ...bitter herbs

0.2. SIMEON'S SPEECH

- from seeing the *future glory* → to *personal pain*...

1. SIMEON SEES JESUS

- the future glory

1.1. A LITTLE BABY

- selfish indulgence?
- → the Messiah, God incarnated, Savior, Judge, King,

1.2. SALVATION FOR THE WORLD

- from *seeing* to *believing* the WORD (the constant battle between the eye and the ear...)
- light of revelation to the gentiles

1.3. THE GLORY OF ISRAEL

- John 4:22 salvation is from the Jews
- Rom 11:17-18 ...if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches.
- Micah 5:7(6) Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which delay not for a man nor wait for the children of man.

2. THE FALL AND RISING OF MANY

- immediate results
- neutrality impossible

2.1. FALL

- pharisees → Mt 12:31-32 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. ³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
- the disciples who left → John 6:66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.
- the young ruler → Mark 10:21-22 Mark 10:17 "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"... "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ²² Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

2.2. RISING

- Mt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Lk 5:31-32 "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinner to repentance."

3. HEARTS REVEALED

- personal experience

3.1. MARY'S EXPERIENCE WITH JESUS

- Jesus 12 years old → lost in Jerusalem
- Jesus "lost mind" → Mark 3:21 And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

- the Cross → John 19:25-26 standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"

3.2. SUFFERING AND THE HEART

- heart! → not custom, tradition, habits...
- heart! → not culture, art...
- heart! → not religion, ritual...
- reaction to *disappointments* → character
- Ecc 7:3 by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better (כִּי־בָרַע פְּנִים יֵיטֵב לֵב)
- 1Pt 4:1-2 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, ² so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.
- Heb 13:12-13 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³ Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.

4. TO REMEMBER

- Salvation is in the PERSON of Jesus. What do we see in the baby Jesus?
- Christmas meditation leads us from sweet and glorious thoughts of world salvation to sobering realization of the fall of those who reject the Savior.
- Personal followership of Jesus always goes together with some disappointments and involves cross carrying.