

Simeon's Song of Salvation

Luke 2:25-35

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The name *Simeon* means "God has heard." In Luke 2:21-24 the Bible gives us a description of Mary and Joseph bringing their new baby, Jesus, to the temple to present him to the Lord. The shepherds have already witnessed the birth of Jesus. Now God brings two other witnesses forward to proclaim that this baby Jesus was prepared, by God Himself, to be the gift of salvation for all tribes, tongues, and nations of the world. Simeon's words to Joseph and Mary are most likely written and delivered as a song, in Hebrew poetic form. This 2000 year old Christmas song is the hope for the world. It is Simeon's song of salvation.

Luke 2:25

Simeon was staying in Jerusalem, waiting for the consolation of Israel. This is a prophetic term for the Messiah, the One who would bring peace, comfort, and relief from oppression and afflictions. It is a common theme of you can seed as you read Isaiah 40-46.

Luke 2:26

The specific task given to Simeon is that he would be a witness to the birth of the Messiah. Luke seems to imply that Simeon was possibly the priest to whom Mary and Joseph brought Jesus as traditional Jewish custom. This custom would have required them to redeem Jesus as their firstborn with five pieces of silver and once the offering has been made, the priest would take the child in his arms and pronounce a blessing.

Luke 2:30

Simeon states that he can now depart in peace because his eyes have seen God's salvation.

Simeon is giving testimony to the fact that this baby, Jesus, is truly the promised Messiah, and the very same one that the angels had announced earlier to the field shepherds (Luke 2:8-14). Salvation, from the Jewish perspective, revolved around the hope of God sending His promised Messiah to deliver Israel from enemy occupation and restore her to her rightful place among the nations. However, Isaiah's prophecy in Isaiah 49:6 aligns with Simeon's words in Luke 2:30-32 and gives testimony to fact that salvation through Jesus, the Messiah, is a spiritual promise to be offered to all peoples of all nations. Compare the two scriptures below:

Isaiah 49:6, “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

Luke 2:30-32, “For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel.”

Revelation 7:9

“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.”

From God’s perspective we can see that salvation, through Jesus Christ, is offered to every tribe, of every nation, of every skin color, of every culture, of every race and social status. No people group is excluded.

Luke 2: 35b

Simeon ends his poetic blessing with a word of guidance for Mary about a great painful experience that would come her way, sooner than she would expect. He was speaking of the cross, where Mary would become painfully intimate with the distress of watching her Son suffer on the cross for the sins of the world.

This Christmas, what is your theme? Is it SALVATION? Do you know Jesus as your personal Savior? The Bible says that all of us are sinners and we have fallen short of God’s standard of perfection. God loves you and has made a way of salvation possible by placing the weight and debt of your sin upon Jesus, when he was crucified. This could be your most meaningful Christmas, to ask Christ into your heart to be your personal Savior, or to come back to a vibrant life of faith and recommit your life to love the Lord and serve Him with all your heart, soul, and might.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” May God bless you and your loved ones with the hope and truth of the real theme of Christmas.