



CELEBRATING
Advent

Luke 2:25-38

²⁵ 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

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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),

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so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.



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Hope is...
a confident trust, an expectation

A: Our hope has as its foundation the omnipotent creator of the universe (our confidence lies in this)

Psalm 20:7: Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

1Thessalonians 5:8-11: But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

B: The believer's hope is not outcome based because we trust in the loving sovereignty and wisdom of the director of life (our expectation)

Romans 8:22-26: ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. **Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.**

B: The believer's hope is not outcome based because we trust in the loving sovereignty and wisdom of the director of life (our expectation)

Romans 8:22-26: ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Hope in the context of Christmas takes on a bit more of a specific definition.

It should reorient our internal spiritual compass

Orient = align something relative to a compass or other specific position.

Christmas in the Western World

Does it have any resemblance to the original event?

Do we celebrate in light of knowing the actual
subject matter?

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“So here we have two old Jewish saints, representing as it were the very best of the old covenant which is now giving way to the new with the coming of the Messiah. And the question I have asked is, Why these two? Of all the Jews that might have been chosen to recognize the child-Messiah and take him into their arms and speak of his coming, why these?

I think Luke wants us to ask that question because he takes the time to tell us some of the qualities of these two people. Simeon is righteous and devout, with the Holy Spirit upon him (v. 25).

Anna scarcely departs from the temple worshipping God with fasting and prayer night and day (v. 37). They are both very God-centered people.

But the thought that jumps off the page because of its similarity in verse 25 and verse 38 is that both were looking and hoping for God to do something for Israel. Verse 25: Simeon was righteous and devout, 'looking for the consolation of Israel.' Verse 38: Anna spoke of the child 'to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.'”

-John Piper

1 Peter 3:15: but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

What is your hope resting on this Christmas? God's will, Scripture or some other gift or event?

Why is the Christian's hope different than a non-Christian's?

Application Questions

- Would people see you as hopeful?
- Are you prepared, are you preparing?
- Can you give an answer?
- Are you an encourager?



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