

OUR LAST WISH, OUR ONLY HOPE

Simeon's Wish Comes True

“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

Luke 2:29-32

Introduction:

1. Final Wishes

- we grew up challenged to have a dream – a wish that would come true

ie/ Disney

- John, Michael & Wendy Darling wished they could fly with Peter Pan
- Pinocchio wished to have flesh and skin
- Cinderella went to the photomat store and wished her prints would come
- Little Mermaid wished to be human
- Aladdin got 3 wishes from the Genie and we all wondered what we would do with 3 wishes

ie/ If you could have one wish before you die, what would it be?

ie/ What would you wish to see before you die?

- grandchild get married
- Giants win the World Series over the A's
- spend your interest earnings from the whole life insurance policy you bought
- traveling to Paris, Beijing or Israel

ie/ we grew up challenged to have a dream – a wish that would come true

ie/ Brianna – gave us a gift book she made at school – drew picture of family, family tree and another page – “If I had one wish, I would wish for: ‘to live forever.’”

- her wish was much like Simeon's

2. Simeon

- an old man who has seen Israel's up and down
- all Israel was oppressed by the Roman Empire – they awaited freedom
- today's turbulence in the Middle East is relatively mild compared to the wars and captivities ancient Israel endured
- yet while an anxious nation looked forward to a political deliverer, this older and wiser man looked for a greater solution – a spiritual deliverer – his spiritual deliverer
- nothing particularly special about this man's position – not a priest or Levite
- but there is something special about a promise He received from the Holy Spirit
- that before he dies, he would see Jesus the Savior

- name means “one who hears and obeys
- waited for prophecy to be fulfilled

Luke 2:25-26 “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. 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.”

- the Jewish law requires that after giving birth to a son, a woman cannot enter the temple until after her purification service on the fortieth day.

- it was common for several old women come to the temple each day and fuss over the babies

ie/ doting Asian grandmas

- lots of babies born & dedicated, but Simeon knew that this baby that Joseph & Mary brought on the 40th day was special
- he was waiting to die, but before he died, he was waiting for something even more important – the Son of God, the Lord's Christ

Luke 2:27-28 “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, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:”

- then Simeon let out this praise as beautiful as any Old Testament Psalm:

Luke 2:29-32 “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

Norval Geldenhuys: “The thought underlying its wording is of a slave who is instructed by his master to keep watch through the long, dark night on a high place to wait for the rising of a special star and then to announce it. After wearisome hours of waiting he at last sees the star rising in all its brightness. He announces it and is then discharged from keeping watch any longer.” (*Commentary on the Gospel of Luke*, p. 119)

Jesus Christ Is:

1. The Source Of Ultimate Peace (29a)

- for Simeon – political turmoil
 - ruthless government
 - debate among Jewish people on how to respond – radical militia or passive submission

Q: What turmoil are you struggling through in your life?

ie/ political turmoil of the election process – leaving us bitter, apathetic, frustrated or distrusting

ie/ work – not a good time for Dot-Com companies, the economy hasn't been good for the tech sector and you're job security is now job insecurity

ie/ marriage is on the rocks – constant arguing

ie/ struggling with health

* remember, Simeon was about to die – he knew his health was failing – but he had hope and he had peace

- Jesus Christ is the source of peace

Zacharias – in his blessing upon baby Jesus in **Luke 1:79** tells Jesus that He will “guide our feet into the way of peace”

- Christ is the Prince of Peace in **Isaiah 9:6**

Matthew 16:33 “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

v. 25 “Consolation of Israel”

“consolation” = *parakaleo* – one who comes along side

- not just a nurse w/ good bedside manner

- not a psychiatrist that sticks you with a \$150 an hour bill

- not just a buddy that helps in time of need

- but we have the victorious, 2nd Person of the Godhead – being continually along our side

2. The Fulfillment Of God's Promise (29b)

- God promised Simeon he would not die before seeing Christ

- now he is ready to “depart in peace, according to Your word”

- God kept his promise

- like Brianna's wish to “live forever”...

- that's very much in line with Simeon's last wish – though he would die physically, he would live forever spiritually through this baby Jesus who would grow up to be a Man and to die for our sins

- Simeon's last wish is fulfilled in God's promise

ie/ blow candles on birthday cake – make a wish

- disappointed as a kid – never became Bruce Lee or married Raquel Welch
- who could ever guarantee that wish?
- your wish to be a great grandparent, travel to Paris or win a Nobel prize is nice – but no guarantee

- God has his own “Make A Wish Foundation” – but His Foundation is His Word.

- God promises eternal life

1 John 2:25 “And this is the promise that He has promised us – eternal life.”

- Simeon’s wish was based on God’s promise
- our wish should be on God’s promise

3. The Provider Of Eternal Salvation (30)

“For my eyes have seen Your salvation”

- most of the people in the temple saw a mere baby
- Simeon saw the Savior

- when hear terms like “Saved” or “Salvation” – must know what we are saved from

ie/ lifeguard – save from drowning

ie/ FDIC – save banks from bankruptcy

ie/ relief pitchers – save a starting pitcher from a bases loaded situation with no outs in the ninth inning

- saved from the wrath of God

Romans 5:9 “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

Luke 1:46 Mary – “My spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior”

- Christ is Mary’s Savior
- rejoiced – saved from the wrath of judgment

Luke 1:77 Zacharias – Christ will “give knowledge of salvation to His people, by the remission of their sins.”

- salvation comes through the remission
- pardon of sin

ie/ Clinton pardoned 55 people – he remitted their sins – they can’t be judged by it
- can he pardon himself?

- but the president can only save people from the judgment of earthly courts
- only Christ can save us from the judgment of wrath

4. The Light Of All Nations (31-32)

- the sun only shines on half the world all the time
- Christ the Son shines on the whole world all the time
- light to all nations – Jew & Gentile (everyone not Jewish)
- doesn't matter what race, culture, gender or age

5. The Rejected Messiah Of Israel (33-35)

- Joseph & Mary were delighted in what Simeon had prophesied – but now they would be chilled at the price for this peace to come

Luke 2:33-35 “And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, ‘Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’”

a. Prophecy to the parents

- Parenting Christ will be a blessing

Who else would get the privilege of raising the Savior?
He was the perfect kid – no discipline problems.
- always did chores, helped with younger siblings

- Parenting Christ will also be painful
 - Mary's soul would be pierced – agonize to see her own Son crucified

b. Prophecy about Israel

- Some will reject Christ
 - some fall
- Some will receive Christ
 - some rise

ie/ Peter had faith, Judas denied Christ
ie/

c. Prophecy about Christ

- He will be defied & crucified

“Sign” literally "a target that people shoot at"
- Jesus a target of Jews, Romans and sinners

- He will expose wickedness & faith

- Israel’s heart will be revealed through Christ – those who reject and those who exercise faith

Conclusion:

1. Make your ultimate wish eternal life.

- everything else may be wonderful, but it isn’t lasting
- wish for eternal life

2. Base your wish on the promise of God’s Word.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.”

3. Christ will either be the Savior of your sins or the Judge of your sins.

- He wants to save you
- Some of you want to reject or ignore Him
- Come to Him as your Savior and Lord

ie/ at a birthday – light cake, make wish, blow candle

- cute to see little kids try to blow out candle – even though it’s not your birthday
- my girls get to blow out my candles – even though the number of candles make a flame thrower

ie/ At Jesus’ birthday, He wants you to blow out the candles on His cake

- Make a wish.