



January 4, 2026

Title: "Simeon"

Scripture: Luke 2:21-35

Review:

- The baby Jesus has been born
- The angels from heaven appear to the shepherds
- They sing a song of praise: "Glory to God in the highest..."
- And tell the shepherds to go to the stable where the baby is
- They obey and rush to the stable to see the baby
- And they tell others what they'd seen and heard

Luke 2:19

"And Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart"

"All these things:"

- The angel Gabriel's visit to her
- Zechariah and Elizabeth's miracle baby
- Her time with Elizabeth (when Elizabeth's 6-month-old baby leaps in the womb in the presence of her newly conceived baby named Jesus)

- The angel Gabriel's visit to Joseph (he surely shared his angelic visitation story with Mary)
- The birth of Jesus
- The shepherds' surprising visit to the stable where Jesus was born

And there will be more for Mary to ponder!

Luke 2:21 (ESV)

21 And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

- After eight days, Jesus is circumcised (like John)
 1. A sign of God's covenant with Israel
 2. The cutting away of the foreskin/sin for the holy nation of Israel
- **2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

 - As part of circumcision, the child's name is given
 - The name "Jesus" is given to him
 - As Gabriel commanded to both Mary and Joseph before conception

Luke 2:22–24 (ESV)

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

- 40 days after birth and circumcision is the purification ceremony in accordance with **Leviticus 12:3–4**
 1. To offer the firstborn son to the Lord (a dedication of the first born son and the entire family to the Lord)
 2. So Mary can worship in the temple (her cleansing/purification after childbirth)

- They sacrificed two pigeons/turtledoves in accordance with **Leviticus 12** which suggests their poverty and/or modest means...
- Joseph could have exhausted his resources going from Nazareth to Bethlehem
- They didn't have enough to purchase a lamb which was the normal offering

Luke 2:25–26 (ESV)

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.

- Simeon is introduced to us
- He lived in Jerusalem — probably elderly at this point in his life
- He was righteous and devout
- How is someone righteous and devout in the Old Testament and assured of heaven? By faith - see **Hebrews 11**
- He was waiting for the consolation/comforter of Israel

Isaiah 40:1 (ESV)

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

- He was waiting for the One who would fulfill all God's promises for Israel
 1. No more Gentile oppression (since 586 B.C.)
 2. Grant them the forgiveness of their sins
 3. The One who would rule the world in peace from Jerusalem and comfort God's people
- And the Holy Spirit was upon Simeon and guided his life for an anointed task and then could depart - (versus the New Testament sealing the Holy Spirit in us forever)
- And the Holy Spirit had told him he'd not die until he saw "the Lord's Christ"
- The Father's Anointed One, the Messiah, Jesus (see the Trinity here!)
- Simeon knew this promise was true; he clung to it every day he lived

- Did he go to the temple every day of his life, looking for the Promised One?
- As a member of the righteous remnant — true believers in Israel who faithfully waited for the Messiah and God's promises
- In that day, there were:
 1. Sadducees/liberals who wanted a taste of religion but the world
 2. Pharisees/legalists who wanted self-righteousness/control
 3. Essenes who removed themselves from the world and any sinful influence
 4. Zealots who were ready for war to rid Israel of Roman influence and impose Jewish law on the nation
 5. **A smaller righteous remnant:** in the world but not of the world — which included people like Simeon
- Does this sound similar to today's Christendom?

Luke 2:27–28 (ESV)

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,

- The Spirit leads Simeon into the temple
- At that very moment, Mary and Joseph bring Jesus into the temple for purification
- **At that EXACT moment:** God is sovereign over all time and all moments — even the seconds!

Malachi 3:1 (ESV)

1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.”

- Suddenly, Jesus comes into his temple and at that moment:
- Simeon is there and sees him
- Simeon is “in the Spirit,” led by the Holy Spirit
- Inwardly he knows that this baby is the “consolation of Israel”

- Simeon approaches Mary and Joseph and takes Jesus into his arms
- What were Mary and Joseph thinking? Did he ask their permission? Or just take the child?
- And as Simeon holds the baby, he blessed God (and sang the fourth Christmas song in Luke's narrative):
 1. Mary's Magnificat
 2. Zechariah's Benedictus
 3. The angels' Gloria In Excelsis Deo
 4. Simeon's Nunc (Now) Dimittis (Lord). Here's what he sang:

Luke 2:29–32 (ESV)

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.”

- Simeon to the Lord: “Lord, now I can depart in peace”... “I’m ready to die”
- Think about a plane’s departure
- We all have a departure time: **Are you ready to go be with the Lord?**
Are you ready to stand before him? Forgiven or unforgiven?
- Simeon’s eyes have now seen “God’s salvation”/Jesus’s name
- Jesus is the salvation “for all peoples”
- Jesus is a light to the revelation of the Gentiles

Isaiah 49:6 (ESV)

6 he says: “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

- Jesus as a glory to the people of Israel
- Jesus as a light to the Gentiles
- Jesus is the way of salvation for Jew and Gentile alike — this is what Simeon sang about

Luke 2:33 (ESV)

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.

- Mary and Joseph marvel at Simeon's words
- Flashbacks to Gabriel's appearances? Zechariah and Elizabeth? The shepherds?

Luke 2:34 (ESV)

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”

- Simeon speaks to Mary
- He says that Jesus will be a dividing line among Jews
- Some will love him and others will hate him among the Jews
- “A sign that is opposed” foretells future opposition to Jesus (for example in Nigeria today)

Luke 2:35 (ESV)

35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.

- Simeon gives Mary a prophecy: a sword will pierce her heart
- This is a prophecy about Mary's sorrow at the cross — [John 19:25-27](#)
- A prophecy about how Jesus will reveal the hearts of all people toward him
- Did Mary ponder this prophecy too in her heart? [Luke 2:19](#)

What do we do with these verses?

The most important question you will ever answer: **Who is Jesus?**

He is NOT:

1. A mere moral philosopher
2. Just a good and kind teacher
3. A prophet who points to a greater prophet
4. A created being like you and me
5. A life coach who offers good tips for a better life

Jesus is:

1. The second person of the Godhead
2. God in human flesh
3. The Savior of the world...and of you!!
4. The Judge over all the universe who decides your eternal destiny
5. The One who wants to live IN you and conform you to his image and his life

The 300 plus Old Testament prophecies reported his first coming

The New Testament prophecies report he will come again

Do you know him? If not:

1. Confess your sins
2. Believe he died on the cross and was raised from the dead
3. Receive him as your Lord and Savior
4. Repent of your sins...and you are saved
5. Question: Where does obedience/holiness/righteousness fit? It is the response of faith, the proof you love Jesus
6. Be baptized next week publicly — your way to say you now follow Jesus

I pray this is the start of your 2026.

It's the most important decision you will ever make!

Simeon would agree with me!