

A MAN WHOSE NAME WAS SIMEON

Text: Luke 2:25

INTRO: The background: Read vs. 22-25. In this matter-of-fact way, the inspired writer introduces us to the first prophet to arise in 400 years. Let us look for the next few minutes at this Man Whose Name Was Simeon.

I. HIS CHARACTER. What *kind* of man did God use as a prophet?

- A. Just--fair & honest in his dealings with men.
- B. Devout--sincerely devoted to God.
- C. Patient--waited for the Consolation of Israel.
 - 1. The Jews in general were in a state of un-rest. They were in their own land, but subjects of a foreign government. From time to time, numerous individuals took the law into their own hands to "save" Israel from Roman oppression.
 - 2. Simeon put no confidence in human solutions to Israel's needs--he waited for God's solution.
 - 3. The ancient prophets had spoken many words of hope & comfort to be fulfilled when the Christ--the Anointed One was come.

Isa 8:14-15 He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken, be snared and taken."

D. Simeon was a man under the direct influence of the H.S.--a prophet, vs. 25.

- 1. The H.S. revealed to Simeon that he would live to see the Promised One, vs. 26.

NOTE: I knew a Baptist preacher who claimed to have a similar revelation about the 2nd coming of Christ. That Baptist preacher was

killed in an auto accident in Houston in the mid-70's.

2. Simeon allowed himself to be led by the H.S., vs.27.

II. SIMEON'S SONG.

A. Thankfulness to God, vs. 28-29.

B. He bore inspired witness to the fact that Jesus was born to become God's means of saving men from sin, vs. 30.

C. Jesus would be a Light to the Gentiles, & the glory of Israel, vs. 31-32.

The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (Isa. 52:10).

...In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy... (Isa. 9:1-3).

III. SIMEON ASKED GOD'S BLESSINGS ON JOSEPH & MARY, AND BY THE H.S. FORETOLD OF BLESSINGS & SORROWS THAT WOULD COME AS A RESULT OF MARY'S SON.

A. Jesus would become the occasion for some to fall & some to rise, vs. 33-34.

And He shall be for a sanctuary, but for a stone of stumbling & for a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel... (Isa. 8:14).

...The ways of the Lord are right & the righteous walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them. (Hos. 14:9).

B. Jesus would be a sign spoken against. There were all kinds of indications that Jesus was the Christ. miracles,

fulfilled Scriptures, etc.

Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign.
Behold a virgin shall conceive & bear a son, and shall
call His name Immanuel. (Isa. 7:14).

1. Jesus was accused of being possessed by a demon & being crazy, John 10:20.
 2. He was called a Samaritan, possessed with a demon, John 8:48.
 3. He was frequently accused of violating the Sabbath because He did not honor the Jews' man-made laws regarding it.
 4. He was belittled because His disciples did not wash their hands according to some more of the Jews' human religious rules,
Matthew 15:1-2.
 5. He was criticized for eating with publicans and sinners, Luke 2.
 6. At His Jewish trial, He was accused of threatening to destroy the temple, then re-build it in 3 days, Matthew 27:60-61.
 7. At His Roman trial, He was accused of being a traitor by claiming to be a king, John 19:12.
 8. As He was being crucified, Jesus was mocked, scorned, taunted: in every way *spoken against*.
- C. The sword that pierced the body of Jesus would pierce the soul of Mary, for she was standing by the cross as He experienced the bitterest, most horrible of deaths, vs 35. JOHN 19:25.
- D. Finally, Simeon foresaw Jesus as the revealer of hearts.
1. He knew what was in the hearts of men, JOHN 2:24.
 2. Jesus is able to intercede for us before the throne of

God even when we stammer in making our requests known, because He searches our hearts & knows what is in our minds, Rom. 8:26.

3. Someday Jesus will return as Judge of all the universe, and will make known the thoughts of the hearts of all men.

For nothing is secret that will not be revealed nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. (Luke 8:17).

IV. HAVING LIVED TO SEE THE PROMISED MESSIAH, HAVING EMBRACED HIM AS GOD'S MEANS OF SALVATION, SIMEON WAS READY TO MEET DEATH, verses 26, 29.

A. It has often been assumed from these statements that Simeon was a very old man. Whereas that *may* be true, such is definitely *not* a necessary inference.

B. An ancient tradition, better supported than many, says that Simeon the prophet was the same Simeon as the son of a famous Rabbi, Hillel--and the father of the teacher Gamaliel. If so, history records that about 12-13 years later, he became a ruler of a Jewish synagogue. We cannot be sure, however that this was the same Simeon.

C. What we *can* be sure of is this: When a person puts his complete trust in Jesus as God's means of salvation, that person has made preparation for death. Heb 11:6; LK 13:3; Rom. 10:10; Acts 2:38.

I once heard a story is told of 2 boys who grew up together, went into the military together, went to war together. One day after a fierce battle, one of the boys was missing. His friend finally persuaded the C.O. to allow him to return to the battlefield & look for the missing man. A few hours later, he returned to camp, carrying the body of his friend. C.O.: "I tried to tell you this was a useless mission; that your friend would

be dead."

Soldier: "Not so, sir. When I got to him he was still breathing. He looked up into my eyes and said, 'Bill, I knew you'd come.' His confidence in me made the trip worth-while."

Simeon's reaction to the infant Jesus, was, "Lord, I knew You'd come." And for Simeon, the trip was worth-while. What about you?

La Porte, TX, February 7, 1982

La Porte, TX, September 18, 1983

Exton, PA, September 18, 1988

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, October 9, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, March 10, 2002