

WHAT THE "SEER" SAW

Text: Luke 2:25-35

INTRO: Previous to the time we are reading about, the last inspired prophet among the Israelite people had been Malachi. The, for 400 years God had been silent. Now, as the O.T. prophecies are about to all be fulfilled, God again begins to speak thru prophets such as Simeon, Anna, and most notably John the Baptist. The first of these new prophets or seers was Simeon. The word "seer" was used in ancient Israel to describe what was later called a "prophet," 1 Sam. 9:9; Amos 7:12. As an aid to memory, we will speak of what the seer saw.

- I. SIMEON THE SEER SAW THE SAVIOR, vs. 30. The baby Jesus was only 40 days old, but this inspired prophet was able to identify Him as the Savior God had promised for centuries to send into the world.

Matt 1:20-21, ...An angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, & you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Luke 2:10-11, Then the angel said to [the shepherds], "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

II. SIMEON SAW THE FRUITION OF THE ETERNAL PLAN OF GOD. HE SAW THE O.T. PROPHECIES BEGINNING TO BE FULFILLED, VS. 31.

Isa 45:21-23, Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, a just God & a Savior; There is none besides Me. Look to Me, & be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, & shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.

NOTE: There are literally dozens of prophecies fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ, as well as numerous types & shadows of which He is the antitype.

III. SIMEON SAW LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, vs. 32.

Isa 9:1-8, Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun & the land of Naphtali, & afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, 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 & increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden & the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, & garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning & fuel of fire. For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; & the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David & over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment & justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. [Fulfilled in Jesus, Matt. 4:15-16].

Isa 49:6, Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to

raise up the tribes of Jacob, & to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth."

IV. SIMEON SAW THE CROWNING GLORY OF ISRAEL, vs. 32.

A. From the time of Abraham, the Hebrews had been God's "chosen people."

Gen 22:15-18, Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a 2nd time out of heaven, & said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, & have not withheld your son, your only son--blessing I will bless you, & in multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven & as the sand which is on the seashore; & your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Deut 7:6-8, For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in

number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, & redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

B. But many people have missed the point, thinking God chose the Israelites to be saved & others to be lost. Israel's chosen-ness was not so much to a destiny as to a purpose. God chose them to be the ones thru whom He would bring Christ into the world.

C. Jesus Christ is the crowning glory of Israel—the ultimate purpose for which that nation was chosen.

1 Peter 1:19-21, He indeed was fore-ordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who thru Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

2 Peter 1:16-21, We did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received

from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 4:11, If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever & ever. Amen.

CONCLUSION: Finally after many centuries, the time was right & the promises of God regarding the Messiah would be fulfilled. The God who had been silent for 400 years began to speak again—thru Simeon, later thru Anna, & just before the beginning of Jesus' personal ministry, thru John the Baptist.

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, & the glory of Your people Israel.

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