



Luke 2:25-35 (NLT)

At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶ and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, ²⁸ Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
as you have promised.

³⁰ I have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared for all people.

³² He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

³³ Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but he will be a joy to many others. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. ³⁵ As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

3 important parts to this story:

- Simeon meeting Jesus: v 25-28
- The Song of Simeon: v 29-32
- Simeon's Prophecy: v 33-35

The Book of Luke

- Who was Luke?
 - Doctor, historian, educated
 - Greek, former slave, Gentile believer
 - Close companion of Paul
 - Author of Luke and Acts
 - Not an eyewitness to Jesus' life but an eyewitness to the birth and early growth of the Church
- Purpose of the Book of Luke
 - Carefully researched account of Jesus' life
 - Used writings and eyewitness interviews
 - Emphasized dates, details connecting Jesus to events and people in history
 - "Case for Christ" written within 30 years of Jesus' life!

The Meeting of Jesus

How did Simeon even come to recognize Jesus?

1. Simeon was _____ and _____ .
2. Simeon was _____ and _____ to the Holy Spirit.
3. Simeon was _____ when the Spirit revealed Jesus.

What does it take for us to be in a position to recognize God when He is present?

The Song of Simeon – Nunc Dimittis

Shocking statement that Jesus' salvation will extend to all people, not just Jews.

Echoes what the angel told the shepherds: "*I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*"
Luke 2:10

Simeon's Prophecy

- Addresses Mary directly; knows that Joseph won't be there to see?
- Jesus to have paradoxical effect on Israel.
- Gentiles will be _____ and Jews will _____.
- How people respond to Jesus and his message will determine their eternal destiny.

With Jesus, there is no neutral ground,
then or now or forever.

He will be "*a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.*"

Isaiah 8:14 (NLT)

The Christmas story comes to a close with all the promises of the Old Testament fulfilled. The baby Jesus is offered to the service of God, and this old devout man, who knows full well the other promises of the Scriptures, reminds us that this baby will be offered, like his parents' two doves, as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Sources: *Luke: Gospel of Reassurance* by Michael Card, *Testifying to Jesus: Simeon, Part 2* by John MacArthur