

**FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE**

- 1) When God interrupts our plans, we must adjust. We are called to conform to God's eternal plans.
- 2) Jesus is His human name. Christ is His official title. Immanuel describes the nature of who He is. The Angels call him- Son of God.
- 3) 2:21 The name "Jesus" (Greek) or "Joshua/Yeshua" (Hebrew) is the combination of the covenant name for God, YHWH, and the noun "deliver." When combined, these two nouns mean "Salvation is of YHWH."
- 4) 2:22-24 Jesus was reared in conformity with the Law. His parents obeyed the Lord in naming him, in presenting him, in raising him.
- 5) 2:25 Simeon was one of the believing remnant of Judaism, looking forward to the Messianic Age. He had received special revelation to make the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies clear.
- 6) 2:25 The "consolation of Israel" means the Messianic hope. It was a general feeling at the time that the advent of the Messiah was not far off.
- 7) 2:28 There is a close connection between the act of the parents who present the child and that of Simeon, who is found there opening his arms to receive it.
- 8) Deep within Simeon's praise we find great significance...Jesus is the salvation of not just Israel, but the world.
- 9) There are critical moments in life when everything depends on immediate submission to the impulse of the Spirit's leading.
- 10) 2:29-32 The beautiful hymn of Simeon—the *Nunc Dimittis* (Latin)—emphasizes that the Messiah has come **now**.
- 11) 2:33 Mary & Joseph have already been told their son is the Messiah, but they had not comprehended the scope of His eternal purpose.
- 12) 2:34-35 Simeon stops praising and started prophesying. His prophecy reveals the life and purpose of Jesus. Although Jesus is barely a month old, already we are told he is going to be the dividing line of humanity.

13) 2:34 Throughout the New Testament, Jesus said the only way to the kingdom was to follow Him. The ones who did so would receive salvation; they would "rise." But the ones who did not believe would not receive salvation; they would "fall." ALL will be brought to a moral decision.

14) 2:36 A prophetess refers to a woman who spoke God's Word; a teacher of the Old Testament, not a source of revelation.

15) God's timing is always perfect. Anna came up just as Simeon was praising the Lord for the Child Jesus, so she joined in the song!

16) "Who is Jesus?" This is still the most important question for anybody to answer.

**FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

We know God does everything for a purpose, so we must ask ourselves; what's the purpose in the relaying of this story? It is a clear declaration that Jesus is the salvation of not just one people group [Israel] but everyone in the world if they will place their faith in Him. Hearers of the gospel must make a choice about Jesus. There is no neutral ground about Him

What is required to have a heart tuned in to God's activities?

We see by Simeon's life that it is not only necessary to be watching but also to be responsive.

What effect has the arrival of this day on you? Simeon did know who would be entering the Temple that day. What do you do when God reveals His plan and purpose in your life?

At the end of the day will you look back and be able to say, "I responded to God's activity in my life today"?

**GREEK TERMS USED**

Dikaios—righteous

Eulabēs (yoo-lab-ace') [reverent/devout] - literal :- taking hold well (*carefully*) -refers to one who is careful about matters of God

Paraklēsis (par-ak'-lay-sis) to call alongside :- comfort, consolation, exhortation -often used in a judicial sense of an advocate who rendered legal aid/guidance

Anastasis; ("rising") resurrection