

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED

Jesus



Waiting gets us all

- in line at Tim Horton's
- at the airport
- for family to arrive
- Kieran and the wedding

Christmas story:

- nation waiting for savior
- Zechariah and 9 months quiet
- magi on a 18-24 month trip

Simeon and Anna – waiting

COME TO ME AND I WILL RESTORE YOU TO EXPECTED

Luke 2:22–38

Background

– 3 Things Faithful Parents did

a) circumcise son – vs.21

b) Present to God the Eldest son –
Numbers 18:15–16

c) Purification of Mother

Lev. 12:1–4,6–7

“When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord” ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ." 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

**28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace,
30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”**

The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

1. Clear Character and Maturity

– Simeon

– righteous, devout, longing after what God had promised

– Anna

– prophetess, always at temple worshiping, fasting, praying

– people to be listened to and looked up to

2. Both Waiting Expectantly

a) Simeon

- ‘consolation of Israel’
- knew the scriptures and desire of God for his people
- see Isaiah 40:1–2, Micah 7:19
- waiting for God to act, to bring about what was promised

b) Anna

– ‘redemption of Jerusalem’

– see whole life devoted to watching and waiting

* their walk with God aligned hearts and desires with His. What God had promised they longed and looked for with faith – expectantly

3. Work of the Holy Spirit

- Luke specific and it bears mention
 - vs. 25 - Holy Spirit upon him
 - vs. 26 - revealed by the Holy Spirit to him
 - vs. 27 - moved by the Holy Spirit to the courts, and enabled to recognize the baby Jesus
- * don't miss how God reveals and directs by his Spirit

4. Recognized and Responded to Jesus

a) Praised God

- both Simeon and Anna praised and gave thanks in response

b) Proclaimed the Truth

- verbal acknowledgment
- Simeon's prayer
- Anna – ongoing witness to who Jesus is

* Word to Mary and Joseph

- not exactly heartwarming
- truthful and honest
- there will be two responses to the savior:
 - acceptance and belief
 - rejection and hatred
- they will cause you joy and sorrow

So What?

1. Be Expectant

- know the promises & desire of God – expect him to do
- know the leading of the Holy Spirit – expect him to lead and reveal
- let these seasons remind you to be vigilant in watching for Christ's return

2. Be Aware and Marvel

- celebrate the incredible
- remember the impossible
- mark the miracles
- speak of His work

3. Be Willing to Act

- prompted by Holy Spirit
- faithful to his commands
- comforting, sharing, encouraging

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