



Hope: Celebrate Hope

December 25, 2011

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 and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. 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.”

Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they

had been married only seven years. Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

Luke 2:25-38 (NLT)

Hope

And his name will be the hope of all the world.”

Matthew 12:21 (NLT)

Celebrate Hope

For we have been saved in this hope and for this future. Romans 8:24a (TVNT)

Everything written long ago was written to teach us so that we would have confidence through the endurance and encouragement which the Scriptures give us. 5 May God, who gives you this endurance and encouragement, allow you to live in harmony with each other by following the example of Christ Jesus. 6 Then, having the same goal, you will praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore, accept each other in the same way that Christ accepted you. He did this to bring glory to God. 8 Let me explain. Christ became a servant for the Jewish people to reveal God's truth. As a result, he fulfilled God's promise to the ancestors of the Jewish people. 9 People who are not Jewish praise

God for his mercy as well. This is what the Scriptures say, “That is why I will give thanks to you among the nations and I will sing praises to your name.” 10 And Scripture says again, “You nations, be happy together with his people!” 11 And again, “Praise the Lord, all you nations! Praise him, all you people of the world!” 12 Again, Isaiah says, “There will be a root from Jesse. He will rise to rule the nations, and he will give the nations hope.” 13 May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:4-13 (GW)

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Receive this gift from God by faith, choosing to trust believe and put my hope in Him.
- Ask God to work in me so that I may have this hope
- Celebrate the hope that I have in Jesus Christ.
- Meditate and/or memorize Romans 8:24a
For we have been saved in this hope and for this future. (TVNT)