

**BIBLE OUTLINE**  
**SIMEON'S PRAISE AND PROPHECY**  
**Luke 2:25-35**

Simeon's praise of the Lord after His presentation in the Temple is the fifth of five "songs" found in the Gospel of Luke. The others are Elizabeth, 1:42–45; Mary, 1:46–56; Zacharias, 1:67–79 and the angels, 2:13–14. His subsequent prophecy contains several spiritual lessons for Christians regarding the Person and Work of Christ and His adoration of the Lord is a reminder of how believers ought to "celebrate" His birth.

**1. SIMEON'S PERSON (vv. 25-26)**

He was *just and devout* – a true believer who was waiting for the Consolation of Israel – not an action but the title of a Person, the Messiah who would grant deliverance to Israel. (Isa. 25:9 – "Behold this is our God, we have waited for Him..."). He had trusted in the promises of God's Word and obeyed the revelation that was available to him and so was led by the Spirit to the Lord. Simeon was "led by the Spirit of God, taught by the Word of God, and obedient to the will of God". No wonder he found Christ!

**2. SIMEON'S PRAISE (vv. 27-33)**

Taking Him up in his arms, Simeon offered up this "song" or hymn of adoration to Christ. It is a *worship hymn* because it is filled with praise for having seen the Lord before death. It is a *Gospel hymn* because it underscores the truth that salvation is for all people (v. 31). It is a *missionary hymn* because it reminds us of our duty to tell the world about the Lord. It also teaches these truths: that *salvation is in a Person*—Simeon held up a Child and acknowledged that He was the way of salvation, not works or character etc.; that *salvation is for all people* since His life and work was prepared before all peoples, and thirdly that *salvation has two parts* – the first part to bring revelation to the Gentiles subsequent to His first advent and secondly, to bring redemption to Israel upon His second advent. (v. 32)

### 3. SIMEON'S PROPHECY (vv. 34-35)

There are four elements to this prophetic utterance. First, this Child would cause many in Israel to fall or stumble because He spoke words of life but was despised and rejected. Others would rise because of Him, rise from the darkness and depravity of sin because they would come to trust in Him as the Savior of the world and the promised Messiah. Secondly, He was also destined for a sign that would be spoken against – at Calvary where many would mock Him and deride Him. Thirdly, the events He was destined for would also be as a sword, and *resulting in hurt to Mary*, as she witnessed the tragic events at the Cross. Fourthly, His life and death would *reveal the hearts of many* – people's response to the Lord show where they truly stand in relation to God. (v. 35)

Simeon's experience with the Lord is a pattern for the Lord's people to follow – drawing close to Him and thanking God for salvation in Him and being reminded of our duty to tell others, the Gospel message. It is also a tremendous Gospel illustration also in that a person who wanted to find the Lord came to Him and embraced Him and acknowledged who He was—the Savior of the world.

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