

TITLE AND NUMBER: 222 Simeon recognises the baby Jesus



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Luke 2:25-32

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 on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 42:1-9; Luke 2:36-38

What does the Bible passage tell us?

The detail in this short passage helps us to build up a wonderful picture of Simeon, with the baby Jesus in his arms, suddenly realising that this was the moment he had been waiting for. He was an elderly man, very close to God, and full of the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit who led him that day to the temple courts and helped him to recognise in Mary's tiny child the one who would bring salvation - not only to Israel but to everyone. Simeon praised God for keeping His promises.

Here we have an example of the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecies about the coming of Jesus and its impact on us. Simeon, filled with the Holy Spirit, rejoiced that God's salvation was for all. This was unlike many who didn't recognise Jesus as the Messiah and hadn't realised that, when He came, the Messiah would be revealed to all nations.

This passage shows us that, through the birth of Jesus, the old way was passing and that God was bringing in a new way – a way of love not law, a way of compassion not judgement, a way for all people. Simeon could die in peace, praising God that he had witnessed that moment.

Reflection

- Read also Luke 2:36-38. Do you sometimes underestimate the deep spirituality, understanding and experience of the elderly? Think of any elderly people you have known and consider how they have taught and helped you, giving thanks for them.
- Look in Isaiah for some of God's promises revealed as prophecies and see how they were fulfilled in the life of Jesus.
- Simeon was filled with the Holy Spirit who helped him recognise Jesus. Pray and ask that the Holy Spirit will show Jesus to you, too.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

