



## LUKE 2:25-32

**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 on him. **26** It had been *revealed* to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's *Messiah*. **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 may now *dismiss* your servant in *peace*.

**30** For my eyes have seen your *salvation*,

**31** which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

**32** a *light for revelation to the Gentiles*, and the glory of your people Israel.'

### CLOSING PRAYER

*The Seven Great O's of Advent (traditional)*

**O Wisdom**, mysterious Word of God, coming forth from the Father and filling all creation with your life-giving power: Come and show us the way of truth.

**O Lord of Israel**, ruler of your ancient people, you appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave the law on Mount Sinai: Come, and reach out your hand to save us.

**O Flower of Jesse's line**, Son of David, you have been lifted up as a sign of peace, drawing all kings and people to stand silent in your presence: Come quickly and help us, we beseech you.

**O Key of David**, and sceptre of the house of Israel, you have opened to us the way of hope, and shut the door on the powers of evil: Come and free us from our prisons of darkness.

**O Morning Star**, radiance of the Father's love, you are the brightness that disperses the shadows of our hearts: Come, cleanse and renew us in your glory.

**O King of the Nations**, you alone bring joy when you reign in our hearts, and you are the cornerstone of our lives: Come and strengthen us, who were formed by you.

**O Emmanuel**, God with us, hope of the world, and Saviour of all, come and live in us, now and for ever.

### COMMENTARY

*primary source: UBS Handbooks for New Testament*

**v.25** *Simeon*: the name means 'to hear'. **v.25** *devout*: living according to the Jewish law, walking with God in reverence and obedience. **v.25** *waiting*: living in expectation. **v.25** *consolation of Israel*: the Messiah, the fulfilment of Messianic hope. **v.25** *on*: an enduring state. **v.26** *revealed*: might involve a promise (as in this case) or a warning (see Matt 2:12, 22). **v.26** *Messiah*: anointed one, anointed by or on behalf of the Lord. **v.27** *moved*: guided, prompted. **v.27** *temple courts*: part of the temple complex, most likely the court of the women. **v.28** *took him in his arms*: verb suggests Jesus was handed to him. **v.30** *dismiss*: set free. **v.30** *salvation*: a work of God. **v.30** *peace*: wellbeing and harmony with God and other people; a state of mind, not outward circumstances. **v.32** *light for revelation to the Gentiles*: see Isaiah 42:6, 49:6, 51:4.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What caught your attention? Why?
2. What is the significance of the setting (the temple in Jerusalem)?
3. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in Simeon's life and in his encounter with Jesus?
4. Discuss the parallels between the promise Simeon had received from God (v. 26) and his outburst of praise (v. 29-32).
5. What did Jesus represent for Simeon, both personally and as a Jew? What does Jesus represent for the world as a whole?
6. John Stendhal writes, 'Simeon stands there in grateful wonder. It is the future he holds in his hands. He has seen and touched it. He is satisfied. It is, as he said, enough.' Discuss.
7. In what way is Jesus your 'consolation' (v.25)? (synonyms: comfort, relief, support, help, encouragement)
8. What does Simeon teach us about living by faith?
9. **In Summary: How does this passage reflect the theme of 'light in the darkness'?**
10. What did you learn? What do you want to explore further?

*Note on closing prayer:*

If you are short on time, start from "O Morning Star ..."