

Week 1: A Miraculous Hope

Topic: Introduction to the series, Story of Simeon

Scripture: Luke 2:22-38

I. Intro

- A. Series: A Christmas Miracle!
- B. Today: A Miraculous Hope
- C. Miracle Definition: Webster: an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs.
- D. So, here is the rub...
 - 1. If God said it was going to happen, and then makes it happen, is it still a miracle?
 - 2. It would be more a fulfillment of a promise
 - 3. It would be more of an expectation
 - 4. But, by definition, it is truly an extraordinary event bringing divine intervention to human affairs.
- E. So, The promise of Christ's birth is a fact, fulfilled in Bethlehem, and celebrated today with joy and reverence.

II. Text

- A. Verses 22-24: Righteous by the law
- B. Verses 25-27: Simeon:
 - 1. Devout man
 - 2. Waiting for the consolation of Israel
 - 3. THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS UPON HIM
 - 4. He was going to see the Christ before he died
- C. Verses 28-32
 - 1. The Blessing of Simeon
 - 2. Revelation from God
 - 3. Light for the gentiles
 - 4. Glory for Israel
- D. Verses 33-34
 - 1. The message and blessing is not just victory
 - 2. There is also truth and difficulty promised
- E. Verses 35-38
 - 1. Anna
 - 2. She gave thanks to God for the redemption of Israel!

III. Point: What the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon:

- A. My Eyes have Seen Your Salvation
 - 1. We are the walking example of this truth today
 - 2. The salvation we enjoy is salvation that was promised to all.
 - 3. The Spirit revealed this truth to a Jewish leader of the temple and He marveled.
- B. Revelation to the Gentiles
 - 1. Such an amazing addition to the revelation through Simeon
 - 2. Gentiles were not considered a part of this plan by many Jews, yet God continues to remind them:
 - a) [Isa 49:6 ESV] 6 he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
 - b) [Psa 22:27 ESV] 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
 - c) [Isa 60:1-3 ESV] 1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will

be seen upon you. 3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

- d) [Jer 16:19-21 ESV] 19 O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit. 20 Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!" 21 "Therefore, behold, I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD."
 - e) [Zec 2:11 ESV] 11 And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.
 - f) [Mal 1:11 ESV] 11 For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts.
- C. Jesus would bring glory upon the people of Israel.
- 1. The glory would come in the rescue
 - 2. The Rescue would come in sacrifice, and resurrection
 - 3. This was different than expected from the leadership of the Jewish people, because it was different than what they wanted.
 - 4. God blessed them with rescue, and they rejected it because they were hard hearted.
 - 5. Be soft hearted and stand with integrity!
- IV. Close
- A. Promises fulfilled
 - B. Hope realized
 - C. God is honored!