



Through the Cross The Word of God

I. Watching & Seeing

Luke 2:25-38 (NIV®)

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 upon him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 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 now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ **There was also a prophetess, Anna**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child **to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem**.

A. Simeon

- ❖ "moved by the Spirit", v.27
- ❖ "as you have promised", v.29
- ❖ "Joseph & Mary marveled at what was said about him", v.33
- ❖ "Simeon blessed them", v.34
- ❖ "a sign that will be spoken against", v.34
- ❖ "thoughts of many hearts will be revealed", v.35
- ❖ "a sword will pierce your own soul", v.35

B. Anna --"to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem"

Mark 15:43 (NASB®)

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, **who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God**; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

II. Still Watching and Seeing

A. Jerusalem

Luke 21:24 (NIV®)

²⁴ They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. **Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

Psalm 102:13 (NIV®)

¹³ You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come.

1. Message from a friend

Psalm 21:10-11 (NIV®)

¹⁰ You will destroy their descendants from the earth, their posterity from mankind. ¹¹ Though they plot evil against you and devise wicked schemes, they cannot succeed;

Psalm 20:1-4 (NASB®)

¹ May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob set you *securely* on high!

² May He send you help from the sanctuary And support you from Zion!

. . . ⁴ May He grant you your heart's desire And fulfill all your counsel!

2. A Warning

Zechariah 12:3 (NIV®)

³ On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves.

3. A Promise

Luke 21:28 (NIV®)

²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

B. Fierce Times

Matthew 24:7-14 (NIV®)

⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains. ⁹ "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. ¹⁰ At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, ¹¹ and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. ¹² Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, ¹³ but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Galatians 3:28 (NIV®)

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:21-24 (NIV®)

²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Do Not Forget the Promise---

Luke 21:28 (NIV®)

²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

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