



FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors Dennis & Diane Gordon

2018 GOD WITH US #5 SIMEON'S SONG



GROUP SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:25-33 "And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. ²⁶ And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, ²⁸ then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: ³⁰ for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ³¹ which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; ³² a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. ³³ And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him."

1. INTRODUCTION: There were many false Christs in the day of Jesus, just like false religions claiming to be true today. Simeon and Anna waited for many long years to see the face of the Messiah, the Living God of Heaven clothed in flesh. Have you received the true Christ, the One who is God with us?

ORDER OF SERVICE:

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| 1. Light Candles & Pray | 4. Dismiss Kids to Noah's Ark with 'Animals Go Marching Song' | |
| 2. Children's Songs & Story | 5. Adult Fellowship Break | 7. Bible Lesson & Group Prayer |
| 3. Intro Gospel Craft/Coloring | 6. Worship Song Set | 8. Blessing Songs & Benediction |

2. ARE WE ANY MORE PREPARED FOR THE COMING OF THE LORD THAN THEY WERE IN BETHLEHEM?

If Jesus were born today, would it be any different than it was 2,000 years ago? We like to think the answer is yes, that we would be ready, that we would not make the mistake of turning God our Savior away. There would be room in our inn! We would find room, or make room,



or maybe we'd throw somebody out of their room! But in any case, we'd be ready if Jesus were born in New York, or in Texas, or here in Moorpark! But **are we any more prepared for the coming of the LORD to earth than they were in Bethlehem?** Most people were not prepared for His coming. Herod and the scribes were not (*even though they knew where he was to be born*). The rich and powerful of Bethlehem do not seem to have paid any attention to the young couple from Nazareth, even Mary's relatives, the House of David, were not prepared for His coming. They were not watching for the Savior, they did not somehow notice the star, and did not have any place prepared! The rulers of the world never knew he was born. Many never knew he lived or died. Jesus was a peasant child born to peasant parents. The song writer, Phillips Brooks had it right: "*How silently, How silently, the wondrous gift is given.*" Jesus came silently, and quietly, in the same way that all babies come.

John 1:10-11 "*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*"

He came to the world, that He as God had created, to the nation of His own people. Most of the very people who should have been happiest to see him, paid no attention at all! But some of them did.

3. GOD WANTS US TO BE ‘THE QUIET IN THE LAND’.

The nation of Israel as a whole was not ready for the Savior’s birth, but there were some who were ready. The wise men came all the way from Babylon where the Jews had once been captive in Persia, to greet the newborn King. A great number of Gentiles had also been made ready to receive the Lord Jesus with joy, honor and reverence. Among the nation of Israel, there were those who believed the time was drawing near for God to at last keep his promises and come as the Savior, the Messiah to the earth. Among those was a group known as the Quiet in the Land.

Psalm 35:19-20 “Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause. ²⁰ For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.”

The ‘Quiet in the Land’ were those who did not join in violence to overthrow Roman rule, but through godliness and prayer, waited for the Messiah to appear and bring salvation to Israel. **Simeon had been praying and waiting for many long years to see the Messiah. Simeon was led by the Spirit of God to come to the Temple at just the right time to hold the baby Jesus!**

Luke 2:25-27 “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. ²⁶ And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came by the Spirit into the temple...”



4. JESUS WAS BORN UNDER THE LAW OF MOSES, SO HE WAS CIRCUMCISED AND NAMED ON THE 8TH DAY.

Mary and Joseph took their baby to present him in the temple, but not until after the 40 days of Mary's purification were complete.

Galatians 4:4 "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."

The Messiah would likely have been circumcised in the city of Bethlehem on the 8th day, to fulfill the Law of God as Jesus said.



Matthew 5:17 "I did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it."

Luke 2:21 "And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb."

On the eighth day, at the time of his circumcision, Jesus was given the phonetic equivalent of the Father's Paleo Hebrew name, Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh (I AM THAT I AM), Yeshua in Hebrew, but in Greek letters Eieyhsoos (Greek male names end in 's'), in English pronounced Jesus. **The name of the self-existent eternal God, was given to the Messiah by the angel, before he was conceived.**

Isaiah 62:2 "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name."

Today, just as prophesied, **God's people are called Christians,** because they are known by **the new name, Jesus Christ,** that was given to God's son by the mouth of the LORD (through the angel)!

5. THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS ON THE 1ST DAY & CIRCUMCISION ON THE 8TH DAY OF TABERNACLES, FITS THE PICTURE OF THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a yearly Feast of God when God's people set up a temporary dwelling called a Sukkah, outside their home to remind them that God provided every need when they wandered 40 years in the desert, and that one day, God will come to raise up His people at the resurrection, and place them in the promised land, where He shall Tabernacle with them forever!

Ezekiel 37:13-14 "And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, ¹⁴ and shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD."

The LORD of Heaven became flesh in JESUS the Savior, who was born outdoors in a Sukkah because so many had come to Jerusalem for the Feast and also to be taxed, that there was no room in (the upper guest room)



called the inn, of Mary and Joseph's relatives. On the 1st day of the Feast, the LORD came to Tabernacle with men, and on the 8th day He was circumcised, consecrating this child as holy unto God: A picture of the last great day, when all sin shall be cleansed away, and the Heavenly city of God's holy people shall descend with Him to the new earth for the marriage supper of the Lamb, and there shall be no more sorrow!

Revelation 21:3-4 "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men...and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

6. JESUS AND HIS BODY OF LIVING STONES, IS THE LAST TEMPLE THAT SHALL EVER BE BUILT.

Biblical dates given for the conception of John the Baptist and of the Lord Jesus, together with dates given for rulers and events of that time (see *Dating the Birth of Jesus Chart, and Chart Dating the Birth and Ministry of Jesus*), easily pinpoint the birth of our Savior to the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles in 5 BC.

The LORD of Heaven became flesh, to set up His Tabernacle in the Tabernacle of David who is Jesus Christ. There is not another Temple that shall ever be built because Jesus is the last Temple who together with the saved who are His body, the Temple of God.

*Amos 9:11-12 “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and **I will build it as in the days of old:** ¹² that they may possess the remnant of Edom, **and of all the heathen, which are called by my name,** saith the LORD that doeth this.”*



God came as Savior to all the world, both Jew the remnant of Edom, and Gentile, the Heathen called by His name. He builds His church stone by stone as in days of old, with each believer a living stone, built into His Temple, with Christ the chief corner stone.

*1 Peter 2:4-5 “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ⁵ **ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house,** an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”*

Simeon and Anna were waiting in the Temple to see the face of the LORD who came Himself, to Tabernacle with men and bring consolation to Israel, their redeemer, the long-awaited Messiah!

7. JESUS WAS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE AFTER MARY'S 40 DAYS OF PURIFICATION UNDER THE LAW.

Luke records the 40 day purification, in fulfillment of Leviticus 12.

Luke 2:22-24 “And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”



Mary's days of purification would have been completed before she could go with Joseph to the temple to present baby Jesus when the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”, and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the law of the Lord: “A pair of doves or two young pigeons.” The circumcision could have taken place in Bethlehem, but according to the Law, **the presentation and redemption had to take place in Jerusalem.**

Luke 2:25-26 “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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.”

A divinely-promised encounter was about to take place!

8. SIMEON HELD the SALVATION of the WORLD in HIS ARMS.



Luke 2:27-32 “And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, ²⁸ then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹ Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: ³⁰ for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ³¹ which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; ³² a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

Day by day Simeon had prayed for the Lord’s Christ to finally appear. He couldn’t live forever, so he knew that the Lord’s Christ must be coming at any moment! Finally, here came Mary holding the 40-day old baby Messiah in her arms! Mary and Joseph obviously do not have much money, and they were not educated, but here they were in cosmopolitan Jerusalem, timidly walking onto the Temple courts. When Simeon saw them, he must have asked the Lord for the 1,000th time, “Is this the one?” When the Holy Spirit said, “Yes!” Simeon’s heart would have leapt within him. This is the Lord’s Christ, the One for whom the nation has been waiting! And he realized, **“I am holding the salvation of the world in my arms. The comfort of Israel has come!”**

Once you have seen Jesus, death is no longer an enemy. It is true that you may live your life and come to the end not having been as successful as you like. You may live in some frustration because you haven’t accomplished all your personal goals. But if you can come to the end of your life and say, **“I have seen the Lord’s Christ,”** then you have had a good life. Do not waste any more time, **THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS IS JESUS!**

9. ANNA also had WAITED TO SEE the COMFORT of ISRAEL.



Luke 2:36-38 “*And there was one **Anna, a prophetess**, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: **she was of a great age**, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷and **she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple**, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and **spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.**”*

Anna was married for only 7 years when she became a widow living in the Temple, and she was now 84 years old. A prophetess, Anna expounded from the scriptures to those who were waiting for the Savior to bring mercy and consolation to Israel who had turned against Him, that **God was here in Jerusalem to bring salvation!**

Micah 7:18-19 “*Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. ¹⁹**He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.**”*

Psalms 103:11-13 “*For **as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.** ¹²**As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.** ¹³**Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.**”*

Simeon and Anna got to see that the consolation of Israel had come!

10. CONCLUSION: WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

Simeon said this baby will not only be the glory of His own people Israel, but He would also be the light of salvation for the Gentiles! The first three years of Jesus' ministry He did come to bring salvation to Israel first, but He came not just for Israel. From times



of old, the prophets foretold that the Messiah was coming to shine the light of the revelation of God upon every nation, every tribe, every kindred and every tongue! This little baby born to Mary, was God who came to die for the sins of the world; Mary knew from holy scriptures this was true before Simeon repeated those words:

*Luke 2:33-35 “And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, **Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel;** and for a sign which shall be spoken against; ³⁵ (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”*

It is popular in the intellectual churches of our times, to call Jesus a good teacher, a great moral example, or even simply one who reached enlightenment like Buddha! Simeon is saying you have to make up your mind: **Either Jesus is the Son of God, He who is “God from heaven with us”, or He is not.**

2 Corinthians 3:2 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

When Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms, he saw the glory of God in the His face. May we see Jesus through eyes of faith like Simeon and Anna, trusting in Jesus fully as our LORD and Savior!

11. GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND ME

1. There are many false Messiah's in the world; have I received the true Christ, who is God Himself with Us, in His son?
2. Am I any more prepared for the coming of the LORD to earth than the people were in Bethlehem?
3. God wants us to be, "The Quiet in the Land", to walk in peace.
4. Jesus fulfilled every detail that was required of Him according to the Law, because He was born under the Law of Moses.
5. God gives us pictures of salvation in His yearly Feasts; Jesus' birth & circumcision fits the picture of the Feast of tabernacles.
6. Jesus and His body of living stones, believers who are His Temple, is the last temple that shall ever be built.
7. Jesus was presented in Temple after Mary's purification.
8. Simeon knew that he held the salvation of the world in his arms.
9. God promised to bring comfort to Israel and kept His promise.
10. Who is Jesus to you? Have you received the same Jesus in whom Simeon and believed, the Savior who is God with us?

GROUP PRAYER TOGETHER:



Our Father God, We love you and thank you that you came to bring comfort to us who were lost for so long. Thank you for your mercy and grace to continually give your everlasting love for us, your people. We pray that we may become as faithful as Simeon and Anna who watched and waited for your coming for so many years, becoming more holy and devoted every year until you came. Reveal our hearts to us this day as we confess our sin to you God, that we may receive comfort from you that our sins are completely forgiven. Prepare our hearts to see through eyes of love that see that the only thing that matters is Jesus! May we all be ready and waiting for you when you come again, **in Jesus name, Amen.**

12. CHILDREN'S STORY: *Simeon and Anna had been waiting in the Temple of Jerusalem for a very long time, to see the baby who was coming to save the world from sin! God promised that they would see the Savior God when He came to be born in baby Jesus, to bring salvation and comfort to His people Israel, who had suffered for so long. Jesus came to bring the comfort of salvation by faith to Israel, and also to shine the light of His salvation upon the Gentiles – that means Jesus came to save you and me too!*



GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE TO SIMEON AND ANNA THAT THEY WOULD SEE THE FACE OF GOD IN THE LORD JESUS, AND GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE TO SHOW HIMSELF TO ME