

## Luke 2:25-38 (ESV): The Song of Simeon

**Main point:** You are close to God, “included.”

**Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.**

**Background:** This is the fourth ancient “advent hymn” from Luke’s gospel story of Jesus’ birth, according to Christian tradition:

1. Mary’s Magnificat
2. Zechariah’s blessing after the birth of his son, John the Baptist
3. the Angels’ “Gloria in excelsis”
4. Song of Simeon

Eight days after Jesus’ birth, according to Jewish law, his parents took him to the temple for the ritual of circumcision:

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

### Focus of study:

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

### Questions:

1. *How does the writer (Luke) describe Simeon? v. 25:*
  - a. Righteous – follows Jewish law
  - b. Devout – what does that mean? Loves God
  - c. Waiting “for the consolation of Israel” – who were the Jews waiting for, for centuries? The Messiah
  - d. Holy Spirit is upon him – what do you think that means? God is with him
  - e. How old do you think Simeon is, based on what we see so far?

- i. Old! Most likely in his 80s. Faithful year after year.
- 2. *What was the promise God gave him?*
  - a. v. 26: He would not die until he had seen the Lord's Christ, the Messiah
- 3. *Then what happens?*
  - a. v. 27: He's in the temple, and he sees Mary and Joseph with Jesus
- 4. *What does he do?*
  - a. v. 28: Takes Jesus in his arms
  - b. Blesses God!
- 5. Repeat his "song" to God (v. 29-32), and the paraphrase:
  - a. Now I can depart in peace, because you've fulfilled your promise: I've seen the Messiah, the Savior, that You've sent
- 6. *Who is the salvation for?* v. 22:
  - a. a light for revelation to the Gentiles
  - b. for glory to Your people Israel
- 7. *Who does that include then, in the world?*
  - a. EVERYONE! Jews ... and everyone else.
  - b. *Was this the normal understanding of Jews at that time?* No – everyone else was "outside" God's plan.
- 8. *So can you see God's heart here?* FOR EVERYONE – breaking down walls between people and God.
- 9. *What makes you feel "part" of God, "close" to God, or far away? (Use these for prayers.)*
- 10. Ask for any other prayer requests for today.
- 11. Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- 12. End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace