

# POWER HOUR

12/29/2024

Lesson Text:  
Luke 2:25-38

Background Scripture:  
Luke 1:57-80, 2:1-21

Devotional Reading:  
Leviticus 12:1-8

“SALVATION PREPARED FOR ALL PEOPLE”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** *30* I have seen your salvation, *31* which you have prepared for all people. *Luke 2:30-31 NLT*

**Time:** *6 or 5 B.C.*

**Place:** *Temple in Jerusalem*

## **Luke 2:25-38 NLT**

**25** At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him **26** and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. **27** That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, **28** Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, **29** “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. **30** I have seen your salvation, **31** which you have prepared for all people. **32** He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!” **33** Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. **35** As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.” **36** Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. **37** Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. **38** She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to

**everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We read in Luke 2:22-24 that Joseph and Mary came to the temple, in obedience to Mosaic Law (Leviticus 12:4), to bring a sacrifice (vss. 6-8). What Joseph and Mary brought was the offering of those who were poor,

**1. Simeon (Luke 2:25-35).** We are not told the age of this man, but many assume he was well along in years. He was a godly man living a just and devout life before God and people, and he greatly longed for the “consolation of Israel” (vs 25), meaning the Messiah. The word translated “consolation” is also translated “comfort” and is a form of the word Jesus used when He spoke of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16).

Simeon knew he would see the Messiah in his lifetime, for it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit. That in itself shows the closeness of his relationship with God.

Having seen God's salvation, he spoke eloquently of God's greatness and the child's impact on the world. The child would impact Mary's life as well, even bringing traumatic moments into her life. The world would not be neutral about the Christ. Some would rise in faith, others would fall, and many would speak against Him. It is only those who come by faith to Christ who can, like Simeon, die in peace.

Jerusalem in Jesus' time was filled with people of various beliefs and affiliations. The power in Jerusalem was concentrated in the high priest and the chief priests, who were among the Sadducees. The city was home to adherents of various beliefs, including several groups of Pharisees, who believed in popular reform through devotion to the Mosaic ways of life. There were other groups here as well including radical Essenes who opposed the shedding of blood and who did not offer sacrifices.

**2. Anna (Luke 2:36-38).** The other main participant on the occasion was a woman, and there is no question about her great age. Anna had been a widow for many years after a fairly brief marriage. She never remarried but devoted herself entirely to God. That devotion was such that the temple became her home, and her time was spent in the disciplines of fasting and prayer. Her encounter with the child was of such great importance to her that she could not be silent. She praised the Lord with thanksgiving and was not shy about telling others present about the child—especially those who, like her and Simeon, believed in and were waiting for the “redemption” of Israel. Here

“redemption” should be considered similar to the “consolation” referenced earlier. The Greek word behind our English word “redemption” means “loosing” and is used in Scripture for both the freeing of Israel in a political sense and the freeing (*redeeming*) of a person from sin.

One final comment about Anna. She is said to be of the tribe of Aser (Asher), which was one of the ten tribes now known as the lost tribes of Israel after being taken captive by Assyria. Some never forgot their spiritual lineage.

### **POINTS TO PONDER**

1. The Holy Spirit gives the believer understanding regarding who Jesus is (Luke 2:25-26).
2. As Jesus was dedicated to God, so we should dedicate ourselves to Him (Luke 2:27-29, Romans 12:1-2).
3. Jesus Christ came to provide salvation for both the Gentiles and the Jews (Luke 2: 30-32).
4. Christ reveals His light in the heart of man (vs. 32).
5. Jesus affects people in different ways, revealing what is in their hearts" (vss. 33-38).
6. Like Anna, we can thank the Lord for saving us and then go tell others that He has provided redemption for them as well (vs. 38).

### **CONCLUSION**

The promises of the messianic era included a new heart and spirit for Israel. The nation would be redeemed from its human past and its many failures. The crucial factor in revival was and is the presence of Messiah, the only Redeemer. And He does the same for us. It is not His will that any perish.

### **QUESTION(S)**

What sort of people in Israel are especially highlighted in Luke's Gospel?

What kind of faith and practice did these people emphasize?

What sort of knowledge did God give by His Holy Spirit to Simeon?

What can we learn from Simeon's readiness to leave this world after seeing Messiah?

From what Scriptures did Simeon know that the Messiah would be a light to Gentiles?

How would Jesus' coming be a sign of what was in people's hearts?

Why did Simeon say that Mary's own soul would be pierced?

What women are designated as prophetesses in the Bible?

What did Anna do after giving thanks for seeing the infant Messiah?

Why did Israel in Anna's day need redemption?

### **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON**

Next week's lesson is "*Calling Sinners to Repentance*"

Lesson Text: *Mark 2:13-17*

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