

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast
S3E30
Simeon's Praise - (Luke 2:25-33)

Description – Have you ever wondered what the term, “Israel’s Consolation” means? Join us today as we continue to look at the birth narrative from Luke 2 and meet a man named Simeon.

Today we’re continuing to move through the birth and dedication of Jesus, looking at Simeon & Anna from Luke 2.

Luke 2:25-28

²⁵ There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel’s consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said...”

There are a few major differences between the Holy Spirit pre and post resurrection.

Before the resurrection of Jesus, God would send his Holy Spirit to people to perform certain tasks, or for a season. But the Spirit could leave them.

Since Acts 2, when we as believers receive the Holy Spirit, He resides permanently in us. We can’t lose the Spirit, but also we don’t always sense the Spirit in us, because of our actions or sins.

Luke 2:29-33

²⁹ Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation. ³¹ You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples— ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.

³³ His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Also, v. 30 a little play on words, as “...my eyes have seen your salvation.” What is Salvation in Hebrew? Yeshua, Jesus’s very name.

Simeon quotes 9 OT passages in these four verses that he speaks publicly about Jesus.

Luke 2:25 - What does “Israel’s consolation” mean? Or what is it referring to? It’s talking about God’s peace, the Shalom of God coming to His people.

Where is this talked about in the Old Testament? Isaiah 40:1

Isaiah 40:1-2

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God. ²“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and announce to her that her time of hard service is over, her iniquity has been pardoned, and she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.”

So putting this verse into context in Isaiah, the people are in captivity and in exile in Babylon. They’ve been driven from the land, from their homes and their ancestral farms and villages. But God has not forgotten them.

Isaiah 40:3-5

³A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. ⁴Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be leveled; the uneven ground will become smooth and the rough places, a plain. ⁵Ikkkk

There are two who take this verse literally.

1. John the Baptist
2. The Essenes
 - a. By the dead sea, they’d left the comforts of Jerusalem and gone out into the wilderness.
 - b. They wanted to prepare themselves for the coming Messiah in the wilderness.

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the whole earth. He never becomes faint or weary; there is no limit to his understanding. ²⁹He gives strength to the faint and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰Youths may become faint and weary, and young men stumble and fall, ³¹but those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.

The Hebrew word “Qavah” is what is translated as “wait.” Or here in the CSB it is translated as “trust” in v. 31.

We normally think of “waiting” on something or for an action to happen. Like waiting for a ride at Disneyland, or waiting at a gate to board our plane for a trip.

But the Hebrew word doesn’t mean that at all. The word picture in Hebrew is like taking a string and intertwining it with other strings to make a larger rope.

Another example: Elementary School Field Day when you would grab a friend and do the 3-legged race together. If you want to win, you’re going to have to be in sync, in rhythm with each other, or you’re going to end up on the ground.

When a believer “trusts” or “waits” on the Lord, you’re binding yourself to God. When He walks, you walk. When he moves, you move. When He stops, you stop. When He talks, you listen.

You're being an active participant in what God is doing.

You will renew your strength, you'll not grow weary when you're walking close to God.

It's showing an act of dependence on God.

Jesus has this in mind when He speaks to His disciples in Matthew 11:28-30:

²⁸ "Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."