

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

We have good cause for a great hope in our future.

(Luke 2:21-24) When the eight days were completed for His circumcision, He was named JESUS - the name given by the angel before He was conceived. And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were finished, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (just as it is written in the law of the Lord: "Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice (according to what is stated in the law of the Lord: "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons").

(Luke 2:25-35) 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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple complex. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for Him what was customary under the law, Simeon took Him up in his arms, praised God, and said: "Now, Master, You can dismiss Your slave in peace, according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples - a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Your people Israel." His father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Him. Then Simeon blessed them and told His mother Mary, "Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed - and a sword will pierce your own soul - that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

1. Past Truths

A. God had promised great things in the past.

*(26) It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah.
2 Samuel 7:12-16
Micah 5:2-4*

B. God had shown great faithfulness in the past.

2. Present Triumphs

(30-31) My eyes have seen Your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples - a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to Your people Israel.

- A. God is unfolding His triumphs in our lives today.
- B. We may be too distracted to see God's triumphs.

3. Promised Tomorrows

(34-35) "Indeed, this child is destined to cause the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed - and a sword will pierce your own soul - that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

- A. With God there is always a future.
- B. Our tomorrows are filled with promises.