

# SERMON GUIDE

## The Light is Born

### Luke 2:25-32



#### SERMON NOTES

On October 31, 1517, a young German Monk named Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg to address his theological concerns with the Catholic Church. Luther's goal was to reform the church, not split from it. Regardless, this was the event that sparked the Protestant Reformation and is one of the many reasons you are sitting in this church today.

On April 19, 1775, in Concord, Massachusetts, an unknown American soldier fired his gun at British soldiers who were crossing the North Bridge. This became known as "the shot heard around the world" and kicked off the American war for independence, which is another one of the many reasons you are sitting in this church today.

On December 13, 1997, one of the greatest college quarterbacks of all time was snubbed from the Heisman Trophy, and now every Tennessee Vols fan has to live with sorrow knowing that Peyton Manning is an SEC champion, but not a Heisman winner.

There are some moments in history that stand out more than others. There are some moments in history that have a greater impact than others. Some historical moments like the Reformation or the shot heard around the world have ramifications that extend well beyond their place in history. There is one moment in history that stands above and beyond in its significance and impact. The death and resurrection of Christ was the climax of human history, but you can't get to the death without the next best thing, which is the birth and incarnation of the Word.

That event is what we are looking at in our passage today. Our passage isn't the actual birth of Christ, but it is along the same theme as the birth because this event takes place just days after and there is a declaration that we need to hone in on.

Pastor Erik has led us in a Christmas series the past two weeks on Christ as the light to the Gentiles. Today, we are continuing in that series and looking at the Light who was born.

We should have the same posture of peace as Simeon because the Light was born.

### **Exegesis**

**V25-26 – <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.**

We don't know much about Simeon. He isn't mentioned in the Bible before or after this story. But what we do know is that at a time when Israel was utterly depraved and had traded its covenant with the Lord for cold, dead religious traditions. Last week Pastor Erik taught on Christ as a light in the darkness. At this point in time, spiritual darkness was surrounding Israel and suffocating it. The people had no relationship to the Lord, the spiritual leaders had died, hard hearts, and Israel was a lost nation who had turned from God and forsaken the light.

Despite this dark time, Luke says that there was a man named Simeon who was righteous and devout and who had the Holy Spirit. Describing him as "righteous and devout" describes both his relationship with the people and his relationship with the Lord. Simeon was just and righteous towards other people. He was a virtuous man who had a good reputation. He was also sincere in his devotion to the Lord. He was also a regenerate man (The Holy Spirit was upon him). Despite being surrounded by an unbelieving nation, Simeon was a righteous, devout, believing man. Simeon was, in a way, a small light in the midst of the darkness.

Simeon, as a righteous man, was waiting for the consolation of Israel (comfort, relief). This consolation that he was waiting on is the Lord's Christ mentioned in verse 26. The reason that he's waiting to see the Christ is because the Spirit had spoken to Simeon and told him that he was going to see this consolation with his eyes before he dies. We don't know when exactly God said this to him, but it was likely a long time before this day. The reason we think that is because of what happens next:

**V27-28 – <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,**

Mary and Joseph came to the temple after Jesus' circumcision for their ritual cleansing. Jesus had been circumcised, which served as his cleansing, but parents also had to go through a cleansing process. After a woman gave birth, she was considered unclean, so after 40 days she had to go into the temple and offer a sacrifice to cleanse herself. Providentially, Simeon arrived at the temple at the same time as Mary and Joseph. (Imagine if he had missed it – Thankfully, the Lord, in his providence, keeps his promises) Since he had seen the consolation with his eyes, Simeon offers up a song in praise of God.

**V29 – <sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word**

Simeon asked the Lord to let him die peacefully now that he had seen that the Christ had come. Many scholars believe that because of the way that Simeon phrased these words he was already close to dying and that he passed shortly after this interaction, which would explain why we don't see him mentioned anywhere else in the NT. This is where we see the biblical theme of anticipation coming to a head here with Simeon. Simeon had held on at the end of his life hoping to see the anticipated Christ, now he died in relief because he had seen with his eyes that the Lord had kept his promise and brought light into the dark world. The Lord told him that he wouldn't die before he saw the Christ. Now he is at the end of his life and his words are some that every faithful believer can repeat – “Now I can die in peace.”

**V30 – <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation**

V30 is an allusion to **Is. 40:5 – “And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”**

The glory of God is revealed in Christ.

**V31-32 – <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.”**

In verse 32 Simeon reverses the order of the nations. Throughout the OT the writers often refer to Israel first and Gentiles second, implying that the Gentiles will be saved through Israel. When Simeon sees Christ, he mentions the Gentiles first because now that the Messiah has been brought forth

through Israel, the redemptive work will turn away from Israel to the Gentiles until the fullness of the Gentiles has been reconciled.

**Romans 11:25-26 -- <sup>25</sup> *Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved***

In Christ alone, all of **true** Israel will be saved.

### **Application**

#### **1. God preserves his people and keeps his promises.**

Example: Simeon – God kept Simeon for himself despite the depravity of Israel.

Example: Elijah

**Romans 11:2-5 – <sup>2</sup> *God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? <sup>3</sup> “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” <sup>4</sup> But what is God’s reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” <sup>5</sup> So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.***

No matter what the world and the culture look like around you, God keeps his people.

#### **2. God has always intended to save the gentiles.**

This is clear from Simeon’s words before Christ had done anything (v.32a) Just like God’s plan of redemption was not a reaction to sin, his plan to save the Gentiles was not a reaction to Israel’s rejection of him. God intended for the true descendants of Abraham to be the nations. Just like Christ was a light to the darkness in the effects of sin, Christ is a light to the Gentiles who had only known darkness before.

#### **3. Jesus is the glory of God.**

**John 1:1 -- *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

Why did John refer to Jesus as the Word? Word = Logos (reason, message) – Christ is the culmination of the message of God.

**Hebrews 1:3 -- *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature***

This glory is something that Simeon was able to see in part. This glory is something that Peter, James, and John saw more than anyone on the Mount of Transfiguration. This is not yet a glory that we currently see. But we continue beholding Christ as he continues unveiling our faces. As he transforms us from one degree of glory to another, we see the glory of Christ from one degree of glory to the next.

#### **4. We will all be relieved when we see the Light coming again.**

Just as Simeon waited in anticipation for the first appearance of the Christ, we should wait in anticipation for the second appearance of the Christ. You may not see the Son of Man before you die, but you can pass with the exact same peace that Simeon did because you will walk with the Light one day. This is a significant NT theme that we often overlook. Our hope is future and extends beyond our current state. We often downplay that because “it doesn’t help me right now” but that future hope is the ultimate hope that the Bible provides.

**Luke 2:13-14 – <sup>13</sup> *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”***



- How was your week? What is one thing you’re grateful for and one thing that challenged you?
- How did you grow in obedience to Christ over the last week?
- Where did you go to share the gospel or have a spiritual conversation with someone?
- What is a sin you have been struggling with that you need to repent of?



## LOOK UP

- **REVIEW**

- Read Luke 2:25-32 and then have someone else in the group read it again, preferably from a different translation.
- Additional Scripture
  - Jeremiah 10:2-4
  - Isaiah 42:6-7
  - John 8:12
  - Romans 15:8-9
- What big takeaways did you have from the sermon?
  - What did this teach you about God?
  - What did this teach you about man?
  - What did this teach you about salvation?

- **DISCUSS**

- What sets Simeon apart in the narrative of Luke 2, and why is this significant?
- How does Simeon's response to seeing Jesus reflect the fulfillment of God's promises?
- Why does Simeon mention the Gentiles before Israel in verse 32, and what is its theological significance?
- How can believers today relate to Simeon's anticipation of Christ?
- What does Simeon's story teach us about God's faithfulness?
- What is a practical step you can take as a result of this sermon?

- **MEMORIZE**

- **1 John 4:16** – *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*



## LOOK AHEAD

- **BUILD UP:** How will you grow in your love and knowledge of the Lord this week? We have several discipleship opportunities for you to participate in.
  - **Life Groups** are a time and place to connect and learn to better follow Jesus together while abiding in Him. Life Groups are the primary means of disciple-making at TJC. Our groups focus on connecting, learning, following, and abiding. Groups meet weekly on various days/times across Wilson County. Contact Morgan Cates ([morgan@tjclive.com](mailto:morgan@tjclive.com)) for more information.
  - **MDWK** is a time of education and growth in order to build up the Journey Church body. We offer a handful of intentionally chosen classes that cover a broad range of topics and

are taught by quality teachers from within our congregation. Classes are at 6:30p every Wednesday. Contact Morgan Cates (morgan@tjclive.com) for more information.

- **TJC Women** seeks to equip women to be rooted in the Word of God and bold in their faith. Our events and small groups focus on letting the gospel shape all spheres of our lives. Gather is the first Saturday of every month. Contact Laura DiLeonardi (laura@tjclive.com) for more information.
- **TJC Men** exists to equip men to show Jesus as incomparably glorious in every sphere of their lives. The men's ministry meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 8:00a in the student center. Contact Morgan Cates (morgan@tjclive.com) for more information.
- **TJC Students** is passionate to see every parent equipped, every leader developed, and every student disciplined into baptized, self-feeding, disciple making followers of Jesus who are letting the gospel shape every sphere of their lives. Our student ministry meets on Wednesday nights from 6:00p-7:30p for MDWK worship and Sunday mornings at 8:30a and 10:00a for small group. Contact Larry Davis (larry@tjclive.com) for more information.
- **TJC Kids** believes that the Gospel saves, sanctifies, gathers and sends. It is our desire to see our kids understand that the Gospel truly does change everything and we will do this primarily by teaching our kids to love Jesus, showing them they can have fun in the process, and making sure they stay safe. Contact Nick Judd (nick@tjclive.com) for more information.
- **TJC Young Adults** exists to equip young adults ages 18 to 29 in becoming passionate followers of Jesus who enter their life in Christ. We do this through intentional relationships, fellowship, and worship centered around the gospel. The Fount meets Tuesdays at 7:00p. Contact Hunter Christian (hunter@tjclive.com) for more information.
- **SEND OUT:** Who in your sphere of influence needs to hear this story, your story, or the gospel? We have several opportunities for local and international missions.
  - **For the City:** Acts 1:8 calls us to be engaged where we live and among the nations. The people of TJC seek to bring truth, grace, and hope to Lebanon and the surrounding area by mobilizing the church to be salt and light, not only for the city, but for your city. Take part in faithfully and obediently using your gifts to declare God's glory among those who are hopeless living among you today. Contact Jeff Long (jeff@tjclive.com) for more information.
  - **For the Nations:** At TJC we exist to show Jesus as incomparably glorious to Lebanon and beyond. We are ambitious and passionate about strategically taking an active role in finishing the Great Commission as we actively pursue the unreached peoples of the world by mobilizing the entire church to pray, send, go and welcome international friends among us. Contact Shawn Casto (shawn@tjclive.com) for more information.
- **PRAYER**
  - **Pray over any request from your group members.**
  - **Pray for our directional elders:** Larry Davis (Next Gen Pastor)
  - **Pray for our replanters:** Christ's Fellowship (Gallatin)
  - **Pray for our short-term teams:**

- Central Asia Team departing on March 7, 2025
- Southeast Asia Team departing on March 7, 2025
- Europe Team departing on March 21, 2025
- Southeast Asia Team #2 departing on April 25, 2025
- **Pray for our long-term units on the field:**
  - The Wilsons
  - The Grays
  - The Starks
- **Pray for the unreached.** Want to keep up with Unreached People Groups? Download the Unreached of the Day App <https://joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday/app>