

## Hope

Luke 2.22-40

### Main Idea

In the ministries of Simeon and Anna we see that waiting on Christ is a Joy worth hoping in.

### Overview

#### Hope

- There is a strong emphasis in this passage on Jesus as the Fulfillment of the Law:
  - Vs. 22 “Law of Moses” (Pentateuch)
  - Vs. 23: Quoting the Law (Exodus 13)
  - Vs. 24: Describes sacrifice which was prescribed in Law (Lev. 12)
  - Vs. 27: “According to the Custom of the Law”
  - Vs. 39: “They had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord”
    - The point of all of this is to show us that Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law
    - The point of Simeon and Anna’s stories is to show us this
- Simeon was a righteous and devout man who had the Holy Spirit upon him:
  - The way he was righteous and devout was the same reason we are righteous and have the Spirit upon us...because of what he hoped in...what he waited on...the Consolation of Israel (vs. 25):
    - Consolation means Comfort: Simeon must have been hoping in what Isaiah 40.1-2 taught)
      - Israel means struggle: Simeon was hoping in the One that would bring comfort to the struggle of Gods people
  - Simeon had been promised to see the Lord’s Christ before he died (vs. 26)
    - Simeon Hoped...which is to say he waited (vs. 25)
      - Hope waits on the realization of a something good
    - Anna also waited (vs. 37)

#### Hope Realized

- The realization of Simeon’s hope of seeing the Lord’s Messiah (Christ) led him to be so happy that he was willing to die because he was full of peace (vs. 29)
- This child was the one that was prepared
  - He would be a light of revelation to the Gentiles
  - Glory of Gods people Israel (vs. 32)
  - He would also account for the fall and rising of many in Israel
  - Also for a sign that would reveal where people’s hearts are in relation to God (vss.34-35)
  - A sword would likewise pierce Mary’s soul...likely referring to Jesus’ death (vs. 35)
    - Mary and Joseph marveled at these words (vs. 33)
- Anna had been waiting for this day as well and she responded by giving thanks to God and speaking of Christ to all that were ‘waiting on the redemption of Jerusalem’
  - Both Simeon and Anna were defined by their hope and when their hope was realized they were full of joy and peace

### Questions

**Discussion Starter:** *Describe how your waiting in the Christmas season has changed over the years from when you were smaller.*

1. Read Luke 2.21-40. Note all the notations to the Law. Why are these here and how do they inform us about the book of Luke? The stories of Simeon and Anna? The Bible as a whole?

2. What was Simeon waiting on? What was Anna apparently waiting on? What is the “Consolation of Israel” and the “Redemption of Jerusalem?”
3. How had they come upon this hope? How did they cultivate and keep this hope alive?
4. Describe the apparent Joy of Simeon and Anna at the realization of their hope. Use the text.
5. How are we in a position that is different than Simeon and Anna?
6. How are we in a similar position to Simeon and Anna?
7. How can we learn from Simeon and Anna in terms of their Hope? Where are you or are you not waiting, hoping?
8. How would you see this idea of waiting on the Lord strengthening your love for God? Love for the Lost? Love for your brother/sister in the church?

Spend some time in prayer in thanksgiving for the Lord’s first coming. Ask Him to grow our heart as a church in waiting on the Lord and being fruitful as we wait.

**Accountability Question:** *Where are you waiting where are you not? Briefly describe and pray for one another.*