

The Consolation of Israel

Luke 2.21-35

Before I began to look into the Christmas story more closely, I believed that the people who lived in Christ's time probably had very little faith in his coming. That was true for many, of course. Certainly, the world was in darkness at Christ's coming. The leaders obviously were not looking for him. Jerusalem was insensitive. Yet as I read these stories, I began to see that within Israel, there were devout people who searched the Scriptures and understood from them that the Christ was to be born. Perhaps in studying the prophecy of the post-exilic prophets, those people had an indication that the time was at hand. Those godly people looked for Christ's coming, and by the grace of God, were enabled to see him and recognize him when he came. One such person was Simeon.

*“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. **He was waiting for the consolation of Israel**, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen **the Lord's Christ**. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:*

*‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen **your salvation**,
which you have prepared in the **sight of all people**,
a **light for revelation to the Gentiles**
and for glory to your people Israel.’” Luke 2.25-32*

THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL – THE COMING OF MESSIAH

*“**Comfort, comfort my people,**
says your God.” Isaiah 40.1-5; Luke 3.4-6*

Isaiah 49.13; 57.18; 61.1-2; Psalm 2.1-7

FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION

Isaiah 52.10; 40.3-5; Luke 3.4-6; Psalm 98

*“**Concerning this salvation, the prophets**, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when **he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.**” 1 Peter 1.10-11*

LIGHT IN A DARK WORLD

*“I will also make you a **light for the Gentiles**,
that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.” Isaiah 49.5-6*

Isaiah 42.6-7; Isaiah 60.3; Isaiah 9.1-7

GOD'S GLORY

*“I am bringing my righteousness near, it is not far away;
and my salvation will not be delayed.
I will grant salvation to Zion, **my splendor to Israel.**” Isaiah 46.13*

SEE, MY SERVANT WILL ACT WISELY

Isaiah 52.13-53.12

COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY, COME!!

Isaiah 55.1-13