



## WEEKLY STUDY

### ***Come and Adore - Week Five***

During this week that bridges Christmas and the New Year, we are looking at one passage, one story that helps us think about how the arrival of Jesus, our Emmanuel, impacts our daily lives—even our days in 2026. Spend some time each day in the story of Simeon and consider how the world will be different because you have seen Jesus.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for those who feel like their whole life has been waiting. Is someone waiting on a call? A Cure? A friend? Lift them up to God.

## DAILY STUDY

### **MONDAY: LUKE 2.22-32 (NIV)**

*When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”*

<sup>25</sup> 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 on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

<sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel."

- Today we read the whole passage, the whole story of Simeon. That's it. That's all the information we have about this man who had been waiting for the fulfillment of God's promises. He was an old prophet and there is some speculation about his family line, but nothing confirmed. What we can clearly see is that he finds real fulfillment in the arrival of Jesus Christ. God had been doing some fulfilling work recently. Zechariah and Mary had also found the fulfillment of God's promises in the previous chapter. Have you ever had a sense of fulfillment? Perhaps a time when you were able to finally exhale and say, "this is what I've been waiting for!"? Has God ever been the source of such a moment for you? Describe below.
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- **Prayer Prompt: Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her! (Luke 1.45)**
- *God, I want my whole life to look like eager anticipation of the fulfillment of your promises. I want to be ready to see you complete your will through me. Amen.*

## TUESDAY: LUKE 2.22-24 (NKJV)

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

- The purification rites mentioned by Luke are found in [Leviticus 12.1-8](#). This is the moment that Mary can be declared ceremonially clean after giving birth to a son. This would have taken place 40 days after the birth of Jesus. She was kept hidden away during that period. Tucked away with Jesus as her body healed. The offering of two doves or young pigeons was the alternate offering. A person with any kind of means would have brought a lamb for sacrifice. Mary was not of means. In a way it seems that all she had on this earth was the baby in her arms. There is a real sense of

beauty in this scene. Have you ever had what felt like forced times with Jesus? Where Jesus was clearly all that you had (and all that you needed)?

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- **Prayer Prompt: LORD, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. (Psalm 16.5)**
- *God, you are truly all that I need. Help me to believe that my life is complete in you. Forgive me for placing other things above you. Amen.*

### WEDNESDAY: LUKE 2.25 (NIV)

<sup>25</sup> 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 on him.

- In the Gospel of Luke, the visitation of the Holy Spirit upon a person usually indicates some kind of prophetic movement. That is what we will see from Simeon as well. How long had Simeon been in this posture of waiting in the Spirit? We often lose focus if the period of waiting is too long. It can be difficult to settle in and be ok with the waiting. Simeon, according to Luke, was able to maintain his righteous devotion, as we waited for the consolation of God's people, Israel. Is there an area of strife in your life or the world around you that seems counter to God's design? How can you intentionally wait in the Spirit?

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- **Prayer Prompt: <sup>11</sup>“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1.11)**
- *Lord God, would you meet me today, even in my distractions? Guard me from boredom or sleepiness if my waiting for consolation extends beyond today. Amen.*

### THURSDAY: LUKE 2.26 (NKJV)

*It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.*

- Simeon received a specific promise from the Holy Spirit. I must admit that oftentimes when I consider the promises of God for God's people, they remain general and I hold them at arms'

length. “They are so big that they can’t be specifically for me” I think. But Simeon had more than a hope that he would see the Messiah, he had a promise. How often does God speak so specifically to us? How do we test these promptings of the Spirit?

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- **Prayer Prompt: My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. (John 10.27)**
- *Merciful God, I know that you see me as your beloved. Help me to receive the gift of your closeness and your leading in my life today. Amen.*

#### **FRIDAY: LUKE 2.27-28 (NIV)**

*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,<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God*

- Three people moved by the Spirit and the Law come together to honor and greet the One who comes to fulfill the Law and usher in the Spirit. There are moments in the Bible when we can see how God’s big plan works in different lives, in different places to work His good and perfect will. Is it possible that God still does that? This is usually easier to see in retrospect, but it’s also possible to miss it all together. Have you ever had what some would call “a divine appointment” where God placed you in the right place at the right time with the right people?
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- **Prayer Prompt: For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. (Romans 8.14)**
- *All-Knowing God, I don’t often hope to be lost, but today I would like to be lost enough to let myself be found by you. Lead me today. Amen.*

#### **SATURDAY: LUKE 2.29-32, 34-35 (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup> *“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*

<sup>30</sup> *For my eyes have seen your salvation,*

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.”

“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,<sup>35</sup> so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

- These words from Simeon have been used as a kind of canticle for followers of Jesus to walk with the same heart as their original author. It is referred to as the *Nunc Dimittis* which means “now you let me depart”. It is a way of identifying the complete fulfillment of all our hopes and dreams in the baby who was born in Bethlehem and consecrated in the temple.

Then Simeon turned to Mary and expressed some harsher words. The fulfillment of God’s promises will not always be well received. When pure light enters the world, those who live in darkness may choose to stay in darkness, and it will cause pain—even for Mary. Why does the darkness of the world remain so attractive for some? Simeon had lived out his purpose. This moment was his purpose. And now he was ready to die, because he could die with hope for the salvation of the world. It is a heavy moment and surely one that stuck with Mary for the rest of her life. What promises would you hope to see fulfilled before you say to God, “Now let me depart”?

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- **Prayer Prompt: Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.” (Genesis 32.26)**
- *God, I am so grateful for the ways you are showing up in the world right now. I am scanning the horizon for the fulfillment of your promises of salvation to this broken world. Amen.*

## GROUP DISCUSSION

In this week’s message, we heard about some elements that may be present when you are expecting an encounter with God like Simeon did. Pastor Garrett said that Simeon:

- 1) (created) Space and time for disruption to daily plans.
  - 2) (was) Quiet enough to truly listen and hear.
  - 3) (was) Okay with the unexpected.
  - 4) Knew the main character. (Jesus!)
- Are these elements present in your life?
  - How can you focus more deeply on them in the coming year?