

“Prophetic Praise & Passion” (Lu. 2:29-35)

1. Verification (29-30)
 - a. At last, Simeon sees the salvation of promise of the Prophets.
 - b. He was given special revelation and illumination.
2. Revelation (31-32)
 - a. Not only was God’s means of salvation revealed to Simeon, it was given for “all peoples.”
 - b. This is not a new revelation. Israel’s glory would be seen by all and the “islands” (Gentile nations) would be included into such. E.g. Isa. 40:5; 49:6; 52:10; 56:1ff. 60:1ff.; 42:6 cf. Acts 13:47.
 - c. Simeon even borrows the metaphor of Isaiah re: light unto Gentiles.
3. Inclusion (31-32)
 - a. Simeon affirmed the OT Prophets and yet such affirmation was not met with joy from the Jews.
 - b. The glory of Israel was her King not her national status. Jesus came as Israel’s King yet was rejected by mostly His own. (Gen 12:2)
 - c. Israel’s glory was a hidden glory. His mission, although glorious, was met with internal and external opposition. Those of Israel who thought they need not repent missed out on that which Simeon sang.
 - d. Jesus came for the sick not the well (Mark 2:17). His coming was not for the wealthy, esteemed, powerful, prideful lot but for the outcasts, weak, downtrodden.
 - e. His glory was not in asserting Himself but in serving His neighbors (Mk. 10:45).
4. Division (33-35)
 - a. V. 33 “marveled” likely indicative of Simeon’s illumination.
 - b. V. 34 Jesus’ controversial mission is the determining factor of eternity!
 - c. Isaiah foretold of the division Messiah would cause amongst His own (Isa. 8:14-15 cf. 28:16).
 - d. V. 35 “many hearts will be revealed.” What do you say about Jesus? Will you stand w/ Jesus even if it means your family will abandon you? Mat. 10:34-39
5. Passion (35)
 - a. After Simeon sang of salvation, he spoke of a sword; one that would pierce Mary’s heart.
 - b. I’m sure it was difficult to see Jesus rejected by his own brethren and brothers, but it was brutally painful to see Him suffer the great injustices induced by the religious leaders and executed by the Roman authorities.
 - c. The beginning pointed to the end:
 - i. Luke pointed out that Jesus was wrapped in swaddling linens at His birth and John pointed out that His body was bound is such after His death – which He would leave neatly folded in the tomb!
 - ii. Of course before the swaddling linens wrapped Jesus’ small body He came into this world vulnerable and naked. And when He left this world, he was hung naked as they stripped Him of His clothing.
 - iii. He was laid in a wooden feeding trough – of all things, and He died on a wooden cross for the unrighteous.
 - iv. Angels announced His birth and angels announced His resurrection.
 - v. The events of and around His birth, in so many ways, pointed to His death. Why? Because He came to die. Christmas always points to Easter!
 - d. The sword that pierced Mary also pierced Jesus in that He had to bear the curse of our sins and the punishment of the Father! Gal. 3:13-14.

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- e. The hours of darkness while on the cross signified God’s looming judgment and it was endured by Christ. The cup of God’s righteous wrath was filled to the brim and Jesus had to drink it down to the dregs. That is why He came naked, lowly, helpless, and with no esteem.
6. Completion (Lu. 23:44-47)
- a. Alistair Begg called v. 45 “divine vandalism in the Temple.”
 - b. Jesus had to be torn in order for the barrier of heaven’s holiness to be torn.
 - i. Only God could provide righteousness because no one enters His holiness unless they are pure.
 - ii. God tore the thick 80’ curtain from top to bottom!
 - iii. It signified that the way to holiness is open through Jesus (Jn. 14:6).
 - iv. It validated Jesus’ sacrifice as complete and efficacious!
 - v. Our sin debt was paid in full and Jesus’ resurrection was the stamp of “Paid in full.”
 - c. Lu. 24:1-7

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Most of us like to be prepared. Many of us want to know that our time, energy, and resources will not be wasted if we invest in an idea, enterprise, career, relationship, ministry, etc. Most of us would also like to know if some conflict is coming so we can be prepared for impact. Simeon was told that the LORD would reveal the Salvation of God’s people before he died and he received verification when he held Jesus! However, with that satisfying affirmation of hope came a prophesy of pain. Although Jesus would bring salvation; it came with hardened opposition, physical pain, and emotional distress. Jesus’ mission was one which promised turmoil and great suffering. He took on sin and death and punched a hole through the back of it by raising from the dead. How Jesus was going to conquer was not in the minds of anyone except Him. He alone bore the understanding of the means of the mission even from a young age (Lu. 2:49). The objects, events, prophecies, and even songs around Jesus’ birth pointed to the Cross. And as sure as the angelic hosts sung of the Savior’s glory and mission on Christmas night, two glorious angels announced the Savior’s victory over death on Easter morn!