



All I want for
Christmas

Hope in darkness

Luke 2:25-35



* “Hope means hoping when things are
hopeless, or it is no virtue at all... As long
as matters are really hopeful, hope is mere
flattery or platitude; it is only when
everything is hopeless that hope begins to
be a strength.” G.K. Chesterton



"And hope does not put us to shame,
because God's love has been poured into
our hearts through the Holy Spirit who
has been given to us." Romans 5:5 ESV



“My hope does not rest in the affairs
of this world.
It rests in Christ who is coming again!”
Billy Graham



* 25 And there was a man in Jerusalem
whose name was Simeon; and this man
was righteous and devout, looking for the
consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit
was upon him.



“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.” Psalm 39:7 ESV



* Hopeless Times 25

- Roman Occupation
 - Years of growing Jewish resentment toward Roman rule and paganism eventually erupted in full-scale revolt in A.D. 66
- Jewish Unbelief
 - Pharisees – Sadducees – Herodians – Zealots – Essenes
- Sinners Unrepentant
 - Lepers unthankful – Wealthy greedy – Scribes skeptical



“It is not despair, for despair is only for those who see the end beyond all doubt. We do not.” The Fellowship of the Ring J.R.R. Tolkien



* 25 And there was a man in Jerusalem
whose name was Simeon; and this man
was righteous and devout, looking for the
consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit
was upon him.



26 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.



27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,



* Hopeless Faith 25-27

- Simeon – ‘just and devout’ – WHY?
- Simeon – ‘waiting’ – FOR WHAT?
- Simeon – ‘upon him’ – WHO?
- *“The same Spirit that provided for the support of Simeon's hope, provided for his joy.”* Matthew Henry



* “What profit is the idol when its maker
has carved it,
Or an image, a teacher of falsehood?
For its maker trusts in his own handiwork
When he fashions speechless idols.”
(Habakkuk 2:18)



“Waiting is the hardest part of hope!”



27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,



28 then he took Him into his arms, and
blessed God, and said,



29 “Now Lord, You are releasing Your
bond-servant to depart in peace,
According to Your word;



30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
31 Which You have prepared in the
presence of all peoples,



32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE
GENTILES,
And the glory of Your people Israel.”



* Hope's Answer 27-32

- Obey – “just & devout” (v.25)
- Believe – “consolation of Israel” (v.25)
- Seek – Holy Spirit led
- Trust – “not see death” (v.26)
- *“Those that have welcomed Christ, may welcome death.”*
Matthew Henry



* “Hope is called the anchor of the soul (Heb. 6:19), because it gives stability to the Christian life. But hope is not simply a ‘wish’ - it is that which latches on to the certainty of the promises of the future that God has made.” *
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R.C. Sproul



33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.



* 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to
Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is
appointed for the fall and rise of many in
Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—



35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”



* Hope's Cost 33-35

- ‘amazed’ – wondered – marveled - astonished
- Rise and Fall
 - Some lifted and some taken down
- Sword and Soul
 - Sword ends the physical – Cross, martyrs, persecutions
 - Heb 11:38 *“the world was not worthy of them”*
 - Soul points to the eternal & spiritual



“Hope is not the idea that all will
turn out well but rather all will turn
out to God’s will!”



* We are NOT in the darkness!

- John 1:4
- We do not believe against facts or odds
- We trust in eternal reality – not fearing temporal events
- “Hope is passion for what is possible.” Soren Kierkegaard



“Faith points us beyond our problems
to the hope we have in Christ.”

Billy Graham





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