

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



The Messiah Revealed

Luke 2:25-38

Sunday, December 21, 2025

The Temple courts were the place of prayer, sacrifice, and public life. Mary and Joseph arrive with a poor family's offering. One of the 613 laws that sprang from the Law of Moses required that newborns be presented before God. This legal requirement brought poor families to the Temple with simple offerings.

Priests served in shifts, and elders spent their time in the temple courts at set hours of prayer. It was common to bless children. Jesus was circumcised at eight days old, and presented at the temple at day forty (after his mother's purification).

God meets them with two Spirit-led witnesses who show up at the temple speak on behalf of heaven. They confirm that the Messiah had indeed come to live on earth. Simeon and Anna, are not prominent personalities with great influence, but trusted spiritual voices. They confirm that the long awaited King has come.

CONFIRMATION

Luke 2:25-28

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting 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 do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

Simeon had been waiting along with all of Israel for the appearing of the Messiah. The Holy Spirit guides him into the temple at the exact moment Mary and Joseph arrive with Jesus. He takes the newborn into his arms (as was customary for elders in the temple course to do). As He does, he praises God, and cries,

Luke 2:29-32

29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ESV

He blesses them, warning that this child will raise some up, bring others down, reveal hearts, and (startlingly) pierce Mary's soul.

Luke 2:36-38

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ESV

Malachi 3:1

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ESV

CONSOLATION

Simeon waits for Israel's consolation, the comfort promised in Isaiah.

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ESV

Consolation carries the sense of strong comfort that brings profound peace. Simeon speaks with great conviction as he consoles himself with the fact that there was now nothing that stood between him and the climax of his life here on earth. He was now ready to go into the presence of the Lord.

Conclusion

Simeon declares that Jesus is a light for revelation to the nations and glory for Israel. He says the Child is appointed for falling and rising, and for the exposing of hearts. Anna, a prophetess, gives thanks and encourages anyone who would listen.

Let us take our place as witnesses. Let us speak with joy in our city, and let our hearts be inspired over this little spoken of, but power witness to the Messiah.