

## The Whole World is Waiting (Luke 2:21-39)

The whole world is waiting. Waiting for this pandemic to end, waiting for a vaccine, waiting for things to get “back to normal”. Waiting can be painful at times. The silence, the unknown, the lack of control. Then there’s the temptation to let our imaginations run wild with “what if” scenarios. A month after Jesus’ birth we’re introduced to two people who had been waiting a very long time - waiting for God come through on his promise. What was God’s promise? And what happens when he gives them everything they were waiting for? The answer couldn’t be more relevant for our lives today.

### 1. His name is Jesus (Luke 2:21-24)

This dedication at the Temple - becomes yet another announcement to us (the reader) – a presentation: The promise of God is here *and his name is Jesus*. Luke 1:31  
*Jesus* = grk *iesous* = equivalent of *Yeshua* (Joshua) in Hebrew = *Yahweh saves*; The LORD saves. Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:6-11

### 2. He’s the comfort you’ve been waiting for – you can rest now (Luke 2:25-35)

Simeon = righteous, devout (associated w/ temple?), and...waiting - “consolation” = “comfort” of Israel = hope that God would come and rescue / comfort His people. Isaiah 40:1; 61:2

VV29-32 is a prayer / “hymn” filled with testimony.

The extent of God’s deliverance is bigger than Israel (worldwide). V32

Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Acts 26:15-18

Simeon knows a contentment that puts ALL the waiting, ALL the other events of his life into perspective.

VV33-35 Two responses to Jesus: FALLING = judgment of the arrogant + RISING = salvation of the humble. Jesus brings everyone to a crossroads / to “a crisis of decision”

Mary will experience great sorrow / pain (“*a sword will pierce through your own soul*”). Why? The salvation Jesus will accomplish comes at a great cost.

### 3. He’s the redemption you’ve been waiting for – you can celebrate now (Luke 2:36-39)

Anna is an exclamation point to what Simeon has already said and seen.

She is an elderly widow; a prophet and she’s waiting for the same thing Simeon is waiting for.

As we celebrate Christmas – let’s not forget its significance.

Consolation (relief) is here – you can rest now. Redemption (freedom) is here – you can celebrate now. This isn’t escapism. It’s living in light of what *really* happened.

**QUESTIONS** (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. Read Luke 2:21-39. What observations do you have? What stands out to you? What do we learn about Mary and Joseph in VV21-23?
2. What is so significant about the name Jesus? What is so significant about his dedication?
3. How does Luke describe Simeon? What is Simeon waiting for exactly? What does “*consolation of Israel*” mean? What specific promise is Simeon given by the Holy Spirit?
4. Have you ever waited so long for something that you felt forgotten? Simeon and Anna are both living in a world of patient hope, where suffering has become a way of life. What about their example encourages or challenges you?
5. How do Simeon and Anna react after encountering Jesus? How might their reaction help you appreciate and even celebrate the significance of Christmas?
6. In Luke 2:32 Simeon quotes Isaiah 49:6. What does that tell you about the scope of Jesus’ rescue plan? See also Acts 26:15-18
7. What does Simeon mean by saying *this child is appointed for the rise and fall of many*?
8. Now that Jesus has come what does waiting on the promises of God include?