

Luke 2:21-35**1-1-06****“Child of Hope!”****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Randy Harvey – Ordination.
- 1.2. Title: Child of Hope!
 - 1.2.1. The time was perfect for the coming of Messiah!
 - 1.2.2. **“Religion** was powerless; the **heathen systems** failed; **Judaism** had become formal & lacking spiritually; **Rome** bound the civilized world together w/its fine roads; **Greek** was the one main language of cultured & intellectual life; the **Jews** were dispersed over many lands carrying their **national hope** of a deliverer!” (Griffith Thomas)
 - 1.2.3. This **HOPE** was shared by this morning’s guest...Mr. **Simeon!**
 - 1.2.3.1. **“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”** Rom.15:13
 - 1.2.4. **Pray!**

2. PRESENTATION & BABY DEDICATION! (21-24)

- 2.1. The **Temple** was central in Israel’s worship & hopes.¹
- 2.2. **3 Rites/Ceremonies:**
- 2.3. **[1] Circumcision** (21) – as prescribed in Gen.17:9-14
 - 2.3.1. Circumcision was usually done in the parents’ home, and was also the occasion when the child was officially named.
 - 2.3.2. This rite was an external sign indicating that a covenant relationship had been established between the individual & the Lord, w/all the privileges & responsibilities entailed by such relationship.
 - 2.3.3. The operation was also symbolized the **“spiritual surgery”** that God wants to perform on the **human heart**.
 - 2.3.3.1. Deut.30:6 **“And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants”** (Also Deut.10:16)
- 2.4. **[2] Purification** (22a) - as prescribed in Lev.12:22-24
 - 2.4.1. Baby Jesus is 40 days old! (7+33 days).
 - 2.4.2. **Read – Lev.12:1-8.**
 - 2.4.2.1. **Note** Mary’s “sin” offering.
 - 2.4.3. (Lightfoot) **“This virgin presented her babe unto the Lord in the east gate of the court called Nicanor’s gate, where she would be sprinkled by the priest w/the blood of her sacrifice.”**
 - 2.4.4. They also would have to pay a redemption fee (5 shekels) Num.3:44,45.
 - 2.4.5. (23) Redemption of the 1st born - **Ex.13:2,12-15**
 - 2.4.5.1. **The Redeemer is Redeemed!**

¹ Shepherd’s Notes; pg.11

- 2.5. [3] **Presentation** (22b-24) - as prescribed in Ex.13:2, 12-15.
 - 2.5.1. What a privilege to present our kids before the Lord.
 - 2.5.1.1. **Baby Dedications: Dedicate = set apart!**
- 2.6. (24b) **2 Turtledoves/pigeons** –
 - 2.6.1. Even Mary & Joseph had to deal with **poverty** at Christmas!
 - 2.6.1.1. Seneca said, “It is not the man who has too little, but the man who **craves more**, who is poor.” (4 bc - 65 ad).
 - 2.6.2. This reveals to us that Jesus was born into a home of **modest means**... **Yet, a home of deep loyalty to the religion of the OT.**
 - 2.6.3. 5x’s Luke mentions that Mary/Joseph acted according to the Law.²

3. **SIMEON SEES SALVATION! (25-35)**

- 3.1. (25) **Simeon** = one who hears & obeys.
 - 3.1.1. **Just** – Attitude toward **God** [Past]
 - 3.1.2. **Devout** – Attitude toward **man** [Present]
 - 3.1.3. **Waiting** - Attitude toward **Hope** [Future]
- 3.2. **Q: So why this man?** (3 reasons)
 - 3.2.1. 3 x’s the passage refers to **the Spirit’s** influence on Simeon.
 - 3.2.2. [1] The H.S. was **Upon** him (25)
 - 3.2.3. [2] The H.S. **Revealed** things to him (26)
 - 3.2.4. [3] The H.S. **Led** him (**he came by the Spirit**) (27)
 - 3.2.5. **Q: Is the H.S. “upon” you?** [en, on, epi]
 - 3.2.5.1. Jn.14:17 **“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”**
 - 3.2.5.2. Acts 1:8 **““But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;”** (i.e. Pent.)
 - 3.2.6. **The Definition:** “The **Baptism w/the H.S.** is the Spirit of God coming **upon** the believer, imparting **power** to him, & **gifts** not naturally his own but which qualify him for service to which God has called him.”
 - 3.2.6.1. The phrase is found in all 4 gospels, & twice in Acts.
 - 3.2.7. **I don’t know** what all went on at Pentecost?...We read of a terrific wind filling the room, fire burning upon each of their heads, & the Spirit filled & spoke through this group in foreign tongues. **But I do know** from this point these disciples were never the same. They took to the world like a Mighty Rushing Wind, & burned with an Unquenchable Holy Fire!
 - 3.2.8. “They were enthusiastic to the point of complete abandon.” Tozer

² Lk.2:22,23,24,27,39.

- 3.2.9. **Q: Who is involved in the baptism with the H.S.?**
- 3.2.10. **The Father Promises!**
 3.2.10.1. Acts 1:4 "He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the **Promise of the Father,**"
- 3.2.11. **The Son Baptizes!**
 3.2.11.1. Mt.3:11 "I(John Bap.) indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He(Jesus) who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you** with the Holy Spirit and fire."
- 3.2.12. **The H.S. Comes Upon!**
 3.2.12.1. Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when **the Holy Spirit has come upon you;**"
- 3.2.13. Don't be surprised...If they had problems w/it in the very 1st century, surely it would be **abused & misused** in the 20th.
 3.2.13.1. But don't let **abuse & misuse** rob its "**Holy & Intended use**"!
- 3.2.14. "It is one thing to be born of the Spirit & another to be baptized w/the Spirit."³
- 3.2.15. Don't try to pattern God, Just receive the gift & experience His dynamic power in your life.
 3.2.15.1. It's like trying to figure out how God exactly saves people, or heals people? (He uses all different methods)
- 3.2.16. **Ask!** – **Lk.11:13** "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father (obviously believers) **give the Holy Spirit** to those who **ask Him!**"
- 3.2.17. Pastors need this power! Our missionaries, evangelists, S.S. teachers, our business men/women, our mom's working at home, our teens, our singles, elderly, new believers.
 3.2.17.1. It is available to ALL Believers at any time! 😊
- 3.3. Simeon was **Led by the Spirit** of God; **Taught by the Word** of God; **Obedient to the Will** of God; & **Privileged** to see the Salvation of God
- 3.4. **Consolation** – paraklesis/comfort.
 3.4.1. Prob. From Is.49:13 "Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has **comforted** His people, And will have mercy on His afflicted."
- 3.5. (27) Simeon took **prophecy** seriously...Do we?
 3.5.1. **So he came by the Spirit into the temple** –
 3.5.1.1. If both **Pastor & Parishioner** entered the house of God this same way...the blessings would flow!

³ Chuck Smith; Living Water pg.259

- 3.6. (28) It was the custom in Jerusalem to bring a small child to a rabbi that he might bless the child & pray for it. (LKGNT; pg.144)
- 3.7. **He took Him up in his arms** – These are arms of faith stretched out.
- 3.7.1. “Here’s Jesus resting in the arms of Simeon, and Simeon resting in Jesus Salvation!”
- 3.7.2. **George Macdonald** in his poem said, “Where did You come from baby dear? Out of everywhere into the here.”
- 3.7.3. **Wesley** said, “Here we have God contracted into a span!”
- 3.8. (29) This section is called Simeon’s “*Nunc Dimittis*” or “**now dismiss**”.
- 3.8.1. “*I’m ready to be called home now!*”
- 3.8.2. **Q:** What do you want to have happen so that you could say at the end of your life, “*Lord, now dismiss your servant in peace*” ?
- 3.8.3. Hopefully after we **see salvation** we are then **ready to fly!**
- 3.8.3.1. “You’re **not ready to live**, till you’re ready to **die!**”
- 3.8.4. **Q: Can we also die in peace?** – “Those who **welcome Christ** may also **welcome death** when it comes!”
- 3.8.4.1. Before I was saved, as a kid I was afraid of dieing!
- 3.8.4.2. In 1971 Don McLean had his “one-hit wonder” song...**Bye, bye miss American Pie** - Drove my Chevy to the levee but the levee was dry - And good ol' boys were drinking whisky and rye? - Singing this will be the day that I die - this will be the day that I die. (I was afraid to sing that part!)
- 3.8.4.3. I couldn’t pray the famous prayer, “*if I die before I wake!*” - **I had a fear of doing just that!!!**
- 3.8.4.4. **Q: Are you spiritually ready to depart/die in peace?**
- 3.8.5. This is a **Salvation Song** a **Missionary Hymn!**
- 3.9. **Depart** = “to release a prisoner; to untie a ship & set sail; to take down a tent; to untie a beast of burden.”
- 3.9.1. It **frees** believers from the burdens of this life & **leads** us into the blessings of the next!
- 3.9.2. **Q: Are you tied to this place? If so by what?**
- 3.9.3. **Q: Like a Hot Air Ballooner, can you cut another cord loose today?**
- 3.10. (30) **My eyes have seen**...the glory of the Lord!(Battle Hymn of the republic)
- 3.11. **Salvation** – not soteer(savior); not soteria(salvation); but soterion (speaking of “**one fitted to save**”)
- 3.11.1. **Jesus is the means of deliverance which God is giving to the world!**
- 3.11.1.1. Saviors are only for sinners!
- 3.11.2. Mt.9:13 “**For I did not come to call the righteous, but **sinners**, to repentance.”**
- 3.11.2.1. **Q: Have your eyes seen Salvation?**

- 3.12. (31,32) – **You have Prepared** – “it is not a **human accomplishment**, but a **Divine gift!**”
- 3.13. **All peoples, Gentiles, Jews** – Gentiles brought into this prophecy!
 3.13.1. **Who** may have admission to the kingdom: “Samaritans; Pagans; Jews; publicans; sinners; outcasts; respectable people; poor; rich; women; men; children”
- 3.14. **Light** – To dispel darkness, to show them their way back to God!
 3.14.1. Jn.12:46 “**I have come as a light** into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in **darkness.**”
- 3.15. (34,35) When Jesus is preached, He always produces either “**a rising or a falling**” in every one of His hearers.
 3.15.1. **He is history’s Dividing Ridge!**
 3.15.2. **The whole world** is affected in one way or another by **Mary’s Son**.
 3.15.3. **Never** does one hear the gospel & not **fall** or **rise** under the hearing of it! [Neutrality is forever impossible!]
 3.15.3.1. Rise **unbelievers** from **your sins** dark depths;
 Rise **believers** above **this World**, to the next!
 3.15.4. **The same 2 options remain even today – Rise or Fall!**
- 3.16. Note both **His mission & His suffering**.
- 3.17. Already, the shadow of the cross is **falling** across Jesus’ life.
 3.17.1. Fulfillment will come, mixed w/pain & suffering.
- 3.18. (35) **Sword** – a large wide sword. Signifying extreme anguish.⁴
 3.18.1. **Mary did feel “the sword”** in her heart repeatedly as she watched her son during His ministry, & then stood at the cross where He died.
- 3.19. **Q: Do we await Christ’s 2nd advent** with as much excitement & hope as did Simeon his 1st?
 3.19.1. **Lessons from Mr. Simeon:**
 3.19.2. Be careful of your attitude toward **God!** (Just)
 3.19.3. Be watchful of your attitude toward **man!** (devout)
 3.19.4. Invite the **Holy Spirit** to come **upon** you as Simeon did!
 3.19.5. Be listening for the **Holy Spirit** to **reveal** Himself to you!
 3.19.6. Be **led by the Holy Spirit** as Simeon was!
 3.19.7. **Reach** your arms out for Jesus!
 3.19.8. **Bless God!**
 3.19.9. **Prepare to meet your Maker!...Don’t let it take you unawares!**
 3.19.10. Recognize God is for **ALL peoples!**
 3.19.11. Be **watching & waiting** for Messiah’s Next Coming!

⁴ LKGNT; pg.144