

Luke 2:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

Analysis

Simeon is introduced: 'And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel' (καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄνθρωπος ἦν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ ᾧ ὄνομα Συμεών, καὶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος δίκαιος καὶ εὐλαβής, προσδεχόμενος παράκλησιν τοῦ Ἰσραήλ). 'Dikaios' (δίκαιος, just/righteous) and 'eulabēs' (εὐλαβής, devout/reverent) describe his character. The phrase 'waiting for the consolation of Israel' (προσδεχόμενος παράκλησιν τοῦ Ἰσραήλ) refers to messianic hope—'paraklēsis' (παράκλησις) means comfort or encouragement, recalling Isaiah 40:1-2. Simeon represents faithful remnant Israel, patiently awaiting God's promises. That 'the Holy Ghost was upon him' (v.25) indicates special prophetic enablement rare in this period.

Historical Context

Between the testaments (400 years of prophetic silence), faithful Jews like Simeon kept messianic hope alive through study of Scripture and prayer. His presence in the temple at Jesus' dedication (40 days after birth, Leviticus 12:2-4) was Spirit-directed divine appointment. Anna the prophetess (vv.36-38) similarly represented faithful waiting. These two witnesses validate Jesus' identity within the temple itself, the heart of Jewish worship.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does Simeon's patient waiting teach about faith that persists through long periods of God's apparent silence?
2. How does the Holy Spirit's work in Simeon demonstrate God's faithfulness to preserve a remnant who will recognize Messiah?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἰδοὺ,	ἦν	ἄνθρωπος	ἐν	Ἱερουσαλὴμ	ὃ	ὄνομα
And	behold	there was	a man	in	Jerusalem	whose	name
G2532	G2400	G2258	G444	G1722	G2419	G3739	G3686
Συμεὼν	καὶ	ὁ	ἄνθρωπος	οὗτος	δίκαιος	καὶ	εὐλαβής
was Simeon	And	G3588	a man	the same	was just	And	devout
G4826	G2532		G444	G3778	G1342	G2532	G2126
προσδεχόμενος	παράκλησιν	τοῦ	Ἰσραήλ	καὶ	πνεῦμα		
waiting	for the consolation	G3588	of Israel	And	Ghost		
G4327	G3874		G2474	G2532	G4151		
ἅγιον	ἦν	ἐπ'	αὐτόν·				
the Holy	there was	upon	him				
G40	G2258	G1909	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 25:9 (Parallel theme): And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Luke 1:6 (Righteousness): And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Luke 2:38 (References Jerusalem): And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Mark 15:43 (Parallel theme): Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

Luke 1:41 (Holy): And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

Isaiah 40:1 (Parallel theme): Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2 Peter 1:21 (Holy): For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Luke 23:51 (Parallel theme): (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.