

The One We've All Been Waiting For

December 22, 2024 ▪ Nick Braitto

The _____ of access to the fullness of God's glory. (Genesis 3:6-8)

The _____ of access to the fullness of God's glory. (Luke 2:21-26)

The _____ of access to the fullness of God's glory. (Luke 2:27-35)

The _____ of access to the fullness of God's glory. (Luke 2:36-38)

Luke 2:21-38

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

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,

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."*

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

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)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: What are your plans for making sure Christ has a key role in your celebration of Christmas?

Read Genesis 3:14-19.

1. According to this passage, what are the implications of God's curse upon the world? What are some other implications of the curse that you have seen manifest in your life? What aspect of God's curse upon the world will you be especially glad to see removed?

Read Luke 2:21-38.

2. Verses 21-24 tell us Jesus' parents were devout Jews. What rituals or practices do we engage in today which show we are set apart as a people who belong to God? What are some ways you celebrate Christmas that reveal you are a follower of Christ?
3. What do verses 25-28 tell us about Simeon? Why would he (and others) have been so looking forward to "the consolation of Israel"—the coming of the Messiah (v. 25)? How do you think Simeon's eager anticipation of the Messiah's coming might have been evident in his life?
4. Based on Simeon's description of Jesus in verses 29-32, how would you summarize the purpose of Jesus in the world? What are some ways in which your life shows you embrace this same purpose?
5. When the Bible speaks of the glory of God, what thoughts and images come to mind? What makes having access to the glory of God so wonderful (as in v. 32b)?
6. What responses to the coming of Christ do you see in this passage (vv. 29, 33, 38)? How can your life reflect similar responses during this Christmas season?

Apply: Think back over all we've studied so far in Luke's account of the birth and infancy of Jesus (Luke 1:1-2:28). What could you share with our church family on December 29 about how God has spoken to you through His Word so far in this series—perhaps ways you've grown in your appreciation of God, ways your perspective on God or life has been altered, or actions you've chosen to make?

Pray: Pray that we would live in joyful anticipation of the second coming of Christ—and that until then we would be continually marveling at Christ, thankful for Christ, and making Christ known to others.