



THE CHRISTMAS STORY – UNDERSTANDING HEARTS

THE STUDY – DECEMBER 3, 2014 (FROM NOV. 30TH)

LUKE 2:25-28 (NIV)

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God!"

Simeon was a man of faith and believed in the promises of God; this much we know. What we don't know is if he held a religious position in the Jewish faith. That detail may not be too important in the shadows of the purpose of this account to the entrance of Jesus, God's only Son, into His own creation.

TIMING

Jesus was brought to the temple for the traditional ritual of dedicating each first-born male to the Lord with a sacrificial ceremony – one that is required around the fourth day of the child's life.

1. What does this say about the parents in particular?
2. Who was Simeon? What do we know about him? What can we assume?



The timing of Simeon's fulfilled promise is interesting. Here is an old man who has waited to receive the gift of the promised Messiah his entire adult life. Now, just as his life was ending he received the honor of blessing the child and the parents.

3. What makes this timing typical to the ways of God? Are there any prerequisites to getting what we ask for? When can we expect to receive the desires of our heart?

A MESSAGE FROM GOD

4. What was God's message to the Jewish religion and the gentiles through Simeon's presence and presentation in the temple?