

**Keep Reading A Little Past the Christmas Story:
The Man Named Simeon
Luke 2:25-35**

The modern camera invented in 1888 a man by the name of George Eastman. His company became Eastman-Kodak and photography has greatly affected the world ever since. I think it is one of the top 10 inventions in history.

A man in the Bible named Simeon did not have a camera to take a picture of Jesus when he got to see him. But, Luke “took a picture” for us through his pen – preserving, in just 10 verses, this wonderful account of this man named Simeon and what he got to see.

Simeon was a righteous and devout Jew. He was waiting patiently and expectantly for Messiah and the comfort He would bring to the Jewish people. He spent daily time at the Temple, though he was not a priest or a prophet. We know nothing else about his age, vocation, marital status or lineage. Simeon got to see a promise made by God come true.

Simply put, the text tells us he got to see “the Lord’s Christ”, the one who would bring the promised eternal salvation to both Israel and to the whole world.

Who will this special baby affect?

First, Simeon – imagine the sense of satisfaction and awe he felt – “now you are letting me die with peace.”

Second, Mary and Joseph – His parents marveled at what was said about him. Imagine if those things were said of your child. Mary’s own heart would be pierced by his ministry and the pain of his eventual death.

Third, all Humans for all time – This is the first New Testament text revealing of how all nations/people, not just Jews, can be saved from the wrath of the only and only true God – how? Through Jesus. Jesus will be able to completely reveal the true hearts of all people in all time – whether they love Him or will reject Him.

At this precise time in world history - This child will be the beginning of the comfort, the peace that all sinful and confused and anxious and hurting humanity is ultimately looking for!

And how about you today, 2000 years later? Have you “seen” the LORD’s Christ, through “the eyes of faith”?

The Bible tells us we all deserve God’s judgement on our sin.

The Bible tells us that God HIMSELF provided rescue from his own wrath through sending Jesus to die in our place for the forgiveness of our sin on the cross.

The Bible tells us we can receive that forgiveness and be given the gift of eternal life by placing our trust in Christ – the rescue he brought to us on the cross.

If you have not placed your faith in Christ as your personal savior yet, this Christmas season would be an awesome time to do so.

I'm glad we have this account of Simeon getting to see the LORD'S Christ that day. It brings some extra cheer to our experience of Christmas season.

Merry Christmas everyone!