

WHEN CHRISTMAS WAS WORTH THE WAIT

Luke 2:25-38

For many children around the world, Christmas is an exciting time of the year. They can hardly wait for its arrival. Merchants get excited as they hope to recuperate from a slow year of business. However, in spite of the millions of dollars that will be spent during these few weeks of the year, the Christmas/holiday season is the most depressing time of the year. It is obvious that most people have missed the real point of Christmas. For those who first observed the birth of Christ, Christmas was worth the wait.

I. WAITING ON GOD IS ALWAYS WORTH THE WAIT

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just 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] So he came by 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:

A. God always keeps His promises. How about you?

II. ONLY THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND CHRISTMAS ARE READY FOR DEATH

[29] "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;
[30] For my eyes have seen Your salvation
[31] Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,
[32] A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel."

[33] And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. [34] Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against [35] (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

III. THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER IS JESUS HIMSELF

[36] Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; [37] and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. [38] And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

- A. Some people worship while others waste away
- a. Phanuel means "face of God". Asher means "happy"
 - b. Anna means "gracious". She chose joy instead of bitterness.
 - c. Anna chose to make a career of "waiting on God."
 - d. Anna chose to talk about God's gift to the world. How's your conversation these days?

GOD'S BEST GIFT CAME WRAPPED IN A HUMAN BODY JUST FOR US!

**Pastor Ronald J. Morrison
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