

## Recognize God's Consolation, Embrace Your Destiny

**Luke 2:21** On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

**22** When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"[a]), **24** and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." [b]

**25** 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 upon 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, saying:

**29** "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you now dismiss[c] your servant in peace.

**30** For my eyes have seen your salvation,

**31** which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

**32** a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel."

**33** The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, **35** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

**36** There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. [d] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. **38** Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**39** When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. **40** And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

- a. **Luke 2:23** Exodus 13:2,12
- b. **Luke 2:24** Lev. 12:8
- c. **Luke 2:29** Or *promised, / now dismiss*
- d. **Luke 2:37** Or *then had been a widow for eighty-four years.*

We are all waiting for consolation.

Simeon was waiting for the consolation of Israel.

When Jesus was brought in, Simeon's destiny was fulfilled.

Jesus' destiny was revealed.

We each have a God-given destiny.

We need to embrace it.

Recognize God's consolation

Embrace your destiny

Ask God for more of his Holy Spirit

### **Home Group Discussion Questions:**

Share a time when you were able to recognize God's consolation in your life. What makes it generally difficult for you to accept his consolation? Who in your life has been a conduit of God's consolation?

What do you think your God-given destiny is? How could you further embrace that today?

How could God fill you with his Holy Spirit in an ongoing way? Has he ever revealed the destiny of others to you? Pray that the Holy Spirit would move you and direct your steps more in this next month to experience and bring consolation to others.