



DISCOVER

THE

*Light*

OF THE

WORLD



# EXPECTANT WAITING

Hope is defined as: “The expectation of something happening.” It’s very different from wishing or dreaming...because with “hope” there is a true belief that what you’re hoping for will really happen.

Hope ...It’s looking forward to something you know is going to happen...It’s expectant waiting.

## What are you expectantly waiting for?

In Luke Chapter 2 there is an old man who had lived his entire life with that kind of hope...**the expectance of the birth of Christ, what we call Christmas...**Simeon understood God’s promise of a Savior coming to this world...**He looked forward to this event with hope that enveloped everything he did.**

**Luke 2:21-40** Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

22 Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. 23 The law of the Lord says, "If a woman's first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord." 24 So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—"either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him 26 and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, 28 Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. 30 I have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared for all people. 32 He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

33 Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but he will be a joy to many others. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. 35 As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

36 Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. 37 Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. 38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

39 When Jesus' parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. 40 There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.

**SIMEON - He is Spirit Filled.** The “Holy Spirit was upon him” (2:25). “Spirit told him he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.”

- The Holy Spirit directed Simeon to the temple on the particular day that Jesus’ parents brought Him to be presented to the Lord.
- He had been in the Temple many times, waiting to see the Messiah. It was not a coincidence that Simeon was in the Temple on this day. It was a divine appointment announced by the Holy Spirit in the quietness of Simeon’s heart.

**He is Waiting** – Waiting for the consolation of Israel

- God’s promise to bring COMFORT. To his people.
- “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”  
(Isaiah 40:1–2, ESV)
- “Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.” (Isa 49:13)

**He was waiting FAITHFULLY.** He Came to the Temple every day.

- He was Focused!
- Child after child would come to be presented. Simeon was WATCHING for the Messiah.
- Can you put yourself in Simeon's place?
- God told him that he would see the Messiah before he died, but now he is getting old and God's promise has not yet been fulfilled.
- At what point does your faith begin to fail? Simeon's faith remained strong and the Lord fulfilled his word.

**Simeon's song of praise is a song of hope.**

- GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES
- "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised you may now dismiss your servant in peace."
- The word "sovereign" means "all powerful with all authority...independent of all others." Simply put: **"God is in complete control."**



**The second Faithful Witness was ANNA.** Anna was an Israelite, of the tribe of Asher, one of the ten “lost tribes” of Israel, which were scattered in the Assyrian captivity.

- She was a prophetess. She was also an elderly widow, at least 84 years old. Day and night she was in the temple, fasting and praying. Like Simeon, was looking for the coming of Messiah. (Focused)

**The Christmas story is all about hope...it’s the message that “God keeps His promises.”**

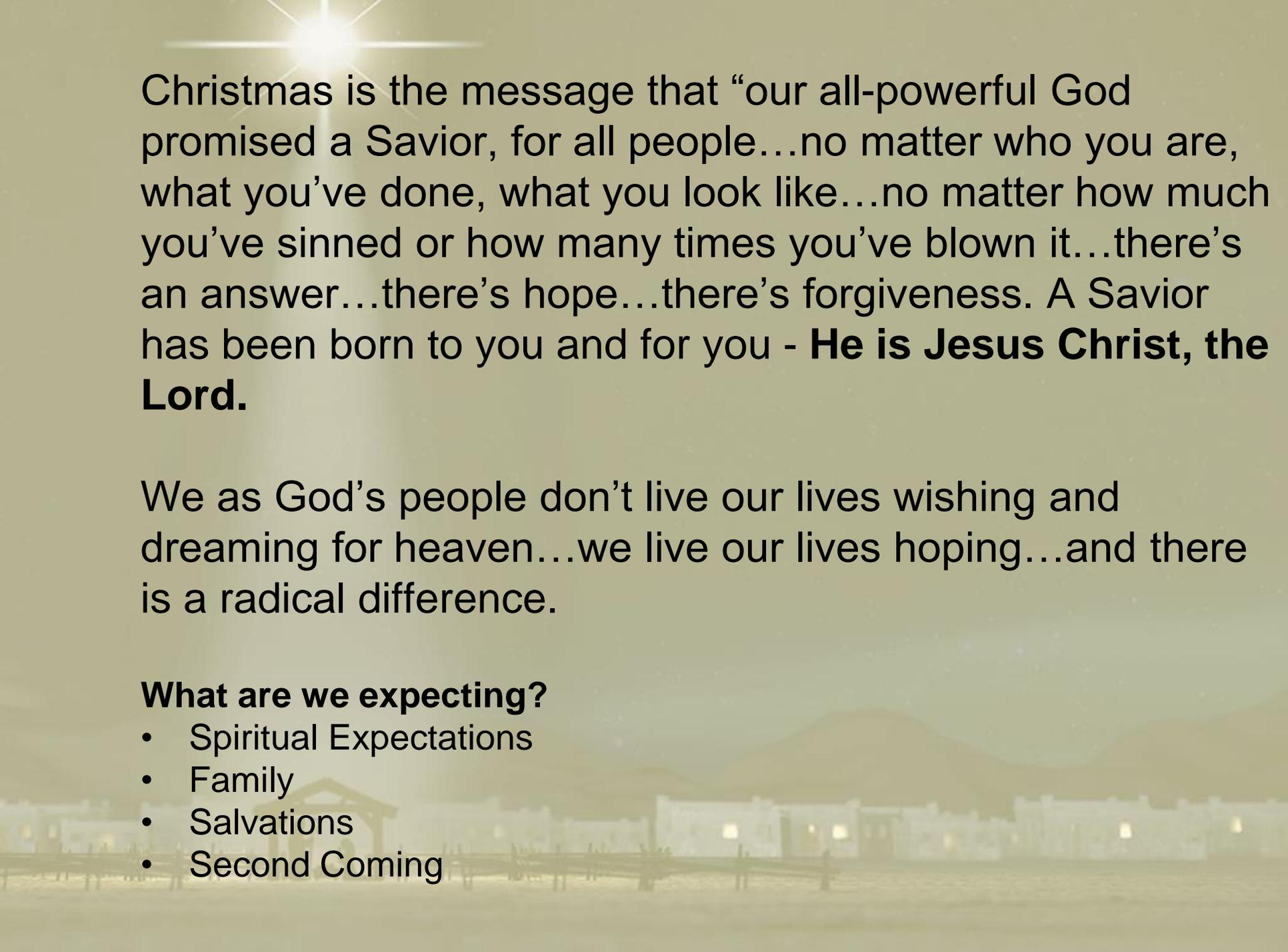
- What hope would we have if our Bibles ended at Malachi?
  - If there were no gospels...
  - If there were no letters from the Apostle Paul to churches who needed reminders of who Jesus is...
  - If there was no revelation from John the beloved about God’s victory over Satan and the promise of heaven purchase for us through the Lamb that was slain?
  - Simply put...there would be no hope.
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Christmas is the message that “our all-powerful God promised a Savior, for all people...no matter who you are, what you’ve done, what you look like...no matter how much you’ve sinned or how many times you’ve blown it...there’s an answer...there’s hope...there’s forgiveness. A Savior has been born to you and for you - **He is Jesus Christ, the Lord.**

We as God’s people don’t live our lives wishing and dreaming for heaven...we live our lives hoping...and there is a radical difference.

### **What are we expecting?**

- Spiritual Expectations
  - Family
  - Salvations
  - Second Coming
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# Things we can learn:

- They were WATCHFUL
- They were in the RIGHT PLACE (ministering in the Temple)
- They were doing the RIGHT THING (faithful to the Lord)
- They were praying with the RIGHT ATTITUDE
- They were LOOKING for the RIGHT PERSON

The comparison to Christ's FIRST COMING and SECOND COMING should not be missed in this story. Israel was expecting their MESSIAH. They were waiting for DELIVERANCE. TODAY, people sense PERIL

- There is a sense that SOMETHING is DIFFERENT about the times in which we live - just like Israelites sensed that there was something different about the times in which they lived.
- Just think, we may be as close to the Second Coming of Christ as Simeon and Anna were to His first coming!
- Are you ready for Christ's SECOND ADVENT?

The LORD Rewards Those who Look for the Coming Messiah

- 2 Timothy 4:8
- Hebrews 9:28



Like Simeon and Anna, we must be watchful

- This is more than wishful thinking to get out of the trouble of this world
- Watchfulness requires obedience
- Watchfulness requires worship
- Watchfulness requires service to God while you are watching





*Thank You*  
FOR JOINING US