

*Aching Anticipation*  
hope is here and will be again



<sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8:16-25)



*“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”*

# 1. Hope is Here (Luke 2:25-35)

*“But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 10:39-11:1)*

- *Faith is the full confidence in God to do what He says He will do because of what He has already done.*
- *“hope is faith in the future tense. And everything that can be said about hope biblically can be said of faith. But faith is more than hope because it involves trust in a person, which may have a backward dimension as well as a forward dimension.” (John Piper, APJ 8/19/22)*

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

<sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> And he came in 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, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation

<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” (Luke 2:25-35)



# 1. Hope is Here

- Simeon has been waiting for God with anticipation for God to bring comfort to the ache of sin and restore Israel to a right relationship again.
- Because of Simeon's faith, trust, or confidence in God to provide comfort to Israel, Simeon hoped that he would one day see the Messiah.
- He had full assurance in faith that God would deliver on His promise and that he would see the Christ. His hope is faith directed in the future.
- Hope or faith in the future leads to faith in the moment.

# 1. Hope is Here

- Remember, there is no joy at the birth, if there is no victory over death.

## 2. Hope Will Be

*“We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it.”*

*(Romans 8:24 NLT)*

- Because of our salvation through faith in Christ, we have been given a future that we hope for.
- God has been faithful to His promises in the past, most notably what we celebrate today, the coming of Christ, then we have full assurance and confidence that the future promise of being with Him and having redeemed bodies is as good as already having been done.

# Application

- *Christmas day is a cause for celebration in that God has brought comfort to us from the ache of sin. He has delivered on His thousands of years promise.*
- *The reason for our celebration today, allows for us to face today and each future day with full future faith or hope that Christ will come again and make new this earth and give us redeemed bodies that are not affected by sin.*
- *Walk out of here today with joy because of the grace of God and joy because you know whatever you fare or are facing will not nullify the future hope of God's promise.*

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