

JESUS, THE LONG-EXPECTED MESSIAH

(Luke 2:25-35)

Have you ever heard the term, "Bucket List?" This is a list of things you want to do and experience before you die or as the saying goes, "*Before you kick the bucket.*" What is in your personal bucket list? Your own set of dreams and goals you'd like to see fulfilled before you die? In the Christmas narrative of Luke 2:25-35, we find a man named Simeon who has the noblest and greatest bucket list one can ever aspire for. His ultimate bucket list and consummate longing before he dies is to see and meet the most important person in all of history, the long-expected Messiah, our Lord Jesus. As we reflect on his personal encounter with Jesus, we will learn this essential truth: **Only those who trust and look to Jesus as the Messiah would rise to the glory of eternal life with God.** Simeon's historical encounter with the Christ-Child teaches us two life-transforming revelations about Jesus as our Long-Expected Messiah

1. Jesus is the Sole _____ of the world.

Luke provides these pertinent details about Simeon: (a) his spiritual character: "*he was righteous and devout*"; (b) his Scriptural conviction: "*he was waiting for the consolation of Israel*"; (c) his special calling: "*it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ*" (Luke 2:25-26; Isaiah 40:1-2). When Simeon finally saw the infant Messiah, he blessed God and fearlessly declared that he was ready to die in peace (Luke 2:27-30). He was prepared to go home with the Lord forever because he has seen God's salvation in the person of Jesus. According to Simeon who was inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, Jesus is the only Divine Savior of the world. Jesus is the Savior not only for the Jewish people but for all the nations of the world (Luke 2:31-32; Isaiah 42:6-7; Ephesians 4:18; Acts 4:12). Jesus is God's only light of hope and redemption to all nations. There is no salvation apart from Him!

2. Jesus is the Sole _____ of one's eternal destiny.

Simeon also declared in his prophecy that Jesus is destined to determine the fall and rise of many in Israel. As the Messiah, Jesus is appointed to be the great dividing point of humanity (Luke 2:33-35). Jesus divides the entire human race into those who would fall and those who would rise on account of Him (Isaiah 8:14; Matthew 11:2-6). Jesus is the Sole Determiner of people's eternal destiny. If you are against Him, you will fall down to eternal judgment in hell forever (John 3:18-20, 36; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). But if you humble yourself before God, turn away from your life of sin and rebellion and trust in Jesus alone as your Divine Savior, you will rise to the glory of eternal salvation in heaven with God forever (Isaiah 28:16; John 6:40; Romans 8:11; Luke 2:35; Isaiah 53:8). The glory of resurrection unto eternal life is God's promise to those who trust and look to Jesus as the Divine Messiah.
