



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Simeon's Testimony

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Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ [tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org](mailto:tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org) / [www.capitolcom.org](http://www.capitolcom.org).

**In the Gospel According to Luke** (AD 60-61), Luke is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke communicates eyewitness accounts and carefully researches all that has been taught and handed down about Jesus (1:1-4). Luke shares that when eight days had passed from Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph brought Him to be circumcised and in subsequent days, to present Him to the Lord and offered a sacrifice for Mary in order to fulfill the Law of the LORD (2:21-24). While at the temple, Mary and Joseph met a man and his name was Simeon. God used Simeon, a common man that believed in God, to communicate a special testimony and message to Mary and Joseph. This testimony was then subsequently passed to Theophilus and the world through Luke's Holy Spirit inspired writing.

*"And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 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. And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel." And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."(Luke 2:25-35 NASB)*

**Simeon was righteous and devout.** Luke shares that Simeon was righteous. A righteous not of Simeon's own efforts, but rather a righteousness given to Simeon from God. Simeon is also characterized as devout man. Simeon trusted and believed in the OT prophecies and promises of God. Simeon was faithful and was "looking for" the Messiah, "the consolation of Israel." Simeon, likely an older man, was of a remnant of believing Jews waiting for their Redeemer and Messiah. Simeon life was lead by and filled with the Holy Spirit.

**The Holy Spirit's promise to Simeon.** The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Christ, Messiah and Redeemer. Simeon was led by the Spirit to go to the temple and there met Mary, Joseph and the child Jesus. Simeon is blessed and shares a prophetic message.

**Simeon's Psalm.** Simeon's psalm is also known as, *Nunc Dimittis*, from the first two words of the Latin translation. In this psalm, Simeon, having seen the Messiah, thanks God for this blessing and believes that his life is complete and such that he could now die or depart this world in peace. Simeon reveals the fulfillment of OT prophecies that the Messiah has come for "all people", to the Gentiles and to the "glory of Your people Israel." (Is 9:2; 42:6; 45:25; 46:13) Mary and Joseph were surprised or amazed with this additional revelation, that Jesus would be the Messiah for all the nations or peoples and not just for the Jews but also would include the Gentiles as well. Simeon then shares additional prophecies with Mary.

**Simeon's Prophecy.** Foretelling the absence of Joseph in the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus; Simeon tells Mary that Jesus will be hated, opposed by many and a stone of stumbling (1Pt 2:8). Others will believe in Him and receive eternal life. Additionally, that Mary will experience a sword piercing her soul; referring to the grief of her Son beaten and dying on a cross.

**Simeon's Testimony.** Simeon was a common man and yet a faithful special messenger of God that was an eyewitness to Jesus the Christ, the Redeemer and long awaited expected Messiah.

### For Your Consideration:

- Have you rejected Jesus and find Him to be a stumbling stone?
- Have you accepted Jesus and found Him to be your Savior and Lord?
- Like Simeon, do you submit to the direction of the Holy Spirit?

### BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44