



### RELATED SCRIPTURES

Psalm 30:20–22 | Isaiah 40:1–5 | Isaiah 40:30–31

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 12.14.25

### SUMMARY

Part of the Christian journey—a significant part—is all about waiting. When we consider people like Simeon and Anna (vs. 36–38), we discover the Lord often asks his people to wait on him, sometimes for an extraordinary amount of time. The people of God had received a promise that one day, a Messiah would bring consolation to their suffering (Isaiah 40). Furthermore, the people of the Lord had not received a word from one of his prophets for over 400 years, and by this point, many had turned their backs on the Lord, while still others, like the Pharisees and Sadducees, had made a practice of distorting the law of God. Nonetheless, a faithful remnant remained, which included people like Simeon and Anna. The Spirit of God was pleased to tell Simeon, presumably an elderly man, that he would not die until he laid eyes on the promised, long-awaited Messiah. Like Simeon, Anna had been in the same temple for decades, waiting for Israel's consolation. She was there daily with prayers, waiting for the arrival of the Lord's promised seed. Finally, she would join Simeon, Mary, and Joseph, rejoicing as the promised Messiah who would redeem God's people was now made flesh. Not many of us would describe waiting as a joyful endeavor, and we might even question God as to why he would make us wait for something so wonderful as a redeemer who would save us from our sin. Perhaps the answer lies in Simeon's response as he set his gaze upon the Messiah; he used words like *peace*, *salvation*, *light*, *revelation*, and *glory*. Would Simeon have had this sort of response absent the waiting? Or maybe it was the *waiting itself* that amplified his joy? There's an important lesson for Christians of all ages to learn here—the Lord uses waiting to strengthen us and even renew our faith. As the prophet Isaiah said, “but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Luke 2:22–35.

Consider verses 34–35 in Luke 2; what is Simeon telling the parents of the infant Jesus? How can words like these be considered a “blessing”?

The common theme in these passages is one of waiting—sometimes for a long time. What impact does waiting have on joy? Has there been a season in your life where waiting made an impact on joy?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.