

Soli Deo Gloria

Lk 2:25-32

What Child is This?

He is the Lord's salvation

He is a light for all people

Intro: 'What Child is This?' You know that as the title of a very familiar Christmas carol that is contained in our hymnal. In the words of that carol, the author expresses his amazement at the child that has been born to Mary and Joseph. Simeon, the man mentioned in our lesson for today, expressed that same kind of amazement and even joy over Mary and Joseph's baby. His amazement and joy were expressed in the words of a hymn of praise, words that we are familiar with, words we sing every time we have the order of service for Holy Communion – the Song of Simeon or as some of us might better know it, the Nunc Dimmittis. The words of Simeon's hymn reveal the true identity of Mary and Joseph's child. Along with the author of the Christmas carol we ask in amazement **What Child is This?** In amazement and joy we say **1) He is the Lord's salvation** and **2) He is a light for all people.**

I. He is the Lord's salvation (25-32)

- A. This child was a very special child
 1. the Lord's salvation
 - a. Simeon was very happy to see Mary and Joseph's child
 - b. in fact, he was so happy to see this child that he broke into a song of praise
 - c. why?
 - d. because he knew that this child was the Lord's salvation
 - e. he saw in this infant the fulfillment of all the promises God had made to his people over the centuries
 - f. this child was the One through whom the Lord would finally save his people
 2. how he would save the Lord's people
 - a. this little child would keep all of God's laws perfectly
 - b. doing what sinful human beings could not and could never do
 - c. already this little child was keeping God's laws
 - d. he had been circumcised on the eighth of his life
 - e. on this day, along with his parents, he was fulfilling the rites of purification for a new mother and child
 - f. on this day he was being consecrated to the Lord as every newborn was to be
 - g. and on the eighth day of his life, when he was circumcised
 - h. he was already shedding his blood to save sinners like us
 - i. then in the 33rd year of his life
 - j. he would pour out his blood in suffering and death
 - k. as a payment for the sin of the entire world to the holy God
 - l. so that sinners would not have to die
 - m. so that sinners could have salvation
 3. Simeon happy to see this child and so are we
 - a. Simeon was happy to see this child because he saw in this child his own salvation
 - b. Simeon knew he was a sinner and he knew what he deserved as a sinner
 - c. but Simeon also knew that this child had come to take away his sins
 - d. therefore, he was very happy to see this child, his salvation
 - e. we are as happy to see this child as Simeon was, aren't we
 - f. our sin and its guilt weigh us down each day and some days more than others

- g. our lives, regretfully, testify that we are sinners who need saving
 - h. that is why we are as happy to see this child as Simeon was
 - i. this is why Christmas is such a joyous and happy day for us
 - j. because in this child born in Bethlehem we see our Savior
 - k. the One who rescued us from our sin and its punishment
 - l. and who has given us salvation!
- B. Knowledge of this child comes by revelation of the Spirit
1. Simeon knew Christ Child by the Spirit
 - a. Simeon recognized Mary and Joseph's son as the Lord's salvation
 - b. but how did he know that?
 - c. there were probably a lot of other baby boys at the temple that day
 - d. and Mary and Joseph's son couldn't have looked much different than any of those other boys
 - e. so how did Simeon recognize this child as the Savior?
 - f. by revelation of the Holy Spirit
 - g. in some special way the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that this child was the Lord's salvation
 2. peace in dying
 - a. and Simeon put his faith in this child as his Savior
 - b. he knew that through this child he had forgiveness
 - c. which affected how he felt about death
 - d. Simeon was not afraid to die; he could die in peace
 - e. because he knew he was forgiven through his Savior
 - f. he knew death would not bring eternal punishment from an angry God
 - g. but eternal life with a loving God in an eternal heavenly home
 3. application to us
 - a. along with Simeon, we know this child to be our Savior
 - b. and, like Simeon, this knowledge is ours by the work of the Holy Spirit
 - c. (2Th 2:13, "...God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit...")**
 - d. God the Holy Spirit has, through the gospel in Word or Sacrament, led us to see the Christ Child as our Savior from sin
 - e. we trust that we are forgiven on account of his life and death for us
 - f. and, like Simeon, this affects our view on death
 - g. like Simeon, we are not afraid to die
 - h. we are confident that our sins are forgiven
 - i. and so we are confident that our death will not bring eternal punishment from an angry God
 - j. but eternal life with a loving God in a marvelous heavenly home
- Trans: What child is this? He is the Lord's salvation. And...

II. He is a light for all people

- A. Jesus came for all people
 1. could easily think Jesus came only for one nation
 - a. when Jesus was born, it could have been very easy to think that the Savior had come for only one nation and one race of people
 - b. God had made his promises to the Jewish people
 - c. the Savior had come from the loins of Jewish people
 - d. he had been born of Jewish parents
 2. But Jesus came for all people
 - a. but Simeon dispels that mistaken notion
 - b. he makes it clear with his words that the Lord's salvation was not reserved for one race or one people or one nation

- c. no, the Christ Child had come for all people
 - d. he had come for Jew and Gentile alike
 - e. no person, no race, no nation was excluded
 - f. (Jn 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”)**
 - g. the Savior came for all people
- B. A Light
- 1. all were in darkness
 - a. to be a light for all people
 - b. all people are born in the darkness of sin and unbelief
 - c. the darkness of death hangs over every person like a dark cloud
 - d. and all people will remain lost in that darkness and perish in the darkness of hell
 - 2. Jesus came as a light for all people
 - a. but the Christ Child came to be a light for those in the darkness of sin and unbelief
 - b. (Is 9:2, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death alight has dawned.”)**
 - c. the Christ Child came to rescue all people from the darkness of sin
 - d. by shining the light of the gospel upon them
 - e. bringing them spiritual life, forgiveness, and eternal life
 - 3. application to us
 - a. like all others, we, too, were lost in the darkness of sin, unbelief, and death
 - b. but the light of the Christ Child has shone upon us
 - c. we now have spiritual life
 - d. and enjoy forgiveness and look forward to eternal life
 - e. and, like Simeon, we will tell others about the Lord’s salvation
 - f. we will bring others to the light of faith, forgiveness, and eternal life
 - g. to those still lost in the darkness of sin and unbelief
 - h. by doing mission work locally with our mouths
 - i. and by supporting mission work abroad with our prayers and generous offerings
- Concl: What child is this? He is our salvation and he is our light.