

Study 2 – The Consolation of the Kingdom

Luke 2



1. According to Luke 2:1-4, whose rule is Israel under? Why is this a 'painful reminder'?



2. According to Isa 9:1-7, what expectation connects 'the house and line of David' with the region of Galilee?



3. Bethlehem was famous in the past as the birthplace of King David. According to Micah 5:2, what special **future** privilege awaits the village?

Micah 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small
among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times."



4. Heard, seen and told (v20) – There's a theme developing around the idea of different responses to the message about Jesus that they hear from God's 'messengers'. Compare and contrast the Shepherds' response with Zechariah and Mary. Looking back to 1:4, why do you think Luke highlights this theme?



5. From verse 25, what is Simeon waiting for?



6. According to Simeon, what will “the Lord’s Christ” do for Israel, and for the world? (v.30-32)



Simeon quotes from Isaiah 49:6 – and says he has found the fulfillment of what Isaiah prophesied about. As we saw last time, Isaiah speaks of Israel’s punishment from God, which is still being endured under Rome’s rule. Simeon realizes the promised time has come!



7. Compare Simeon’s words in verse 34-35 with Mary’s song in chapter 1:46-55. How will Israel be divided by Jesus? (Who will rise, who will fall, and why?)

As you read through Luke’s gospel, make sure you look for this ‘rising’ and ‘falling’ of many in Israel! The nation’s going to be divided over their reaction to the one who has come to save them!



8. The Prophetess Anna is also waiting for something dramatic to happen. What does she say the child Jesus has come to bring about? (v.36-38)



9. In verse 39, Joseph and Mary do everything required by the Law. What other instances of this do you notice in this chapter? What impression do you gain of the couple?



10. Mary marvels at, and treasures a number of things in her heart (see v19 & 51). What impression do you think she is gaining of what the future holds for her son?



11. If you'd been an Israelite, do you think Jesus would have caused **you** to rise or to fall? What sort of attitudes or ideas would stop you welcoming a 'saviour'?



12. Given that the 'saviour' Anna and Simeon are excited about is a small child, a certain amount of humility is involved in their admiration of him. Humility is one of the key attitudes God is looking for in Israel. If you were to ask your spouse, friends or workmates to describe your character, would humility be something they listed? How can you change in this area?

For Next Week...

Remember... Don Carson – Year of Excellence Free Lecture at Creek Rd Friday May 11th	Pray for... Stuart Atkinson and Wilston, Windsor, Newmarket Presbyterian Churches.	Read... Luke 3:1-20 and prepare Study 3.
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