

Sermon – (Soom a one) Advent Week 4

Scripture Luke 2:21-38

Main Message – Learn the lesson from Simeon who sought the Lord's face diligently and was rewarded

Greeting Everyone, Praise be to Adonai, the most high God of the Universe and the blessings he has shown me, who is no one, but I pray what I have witnessed will be remembered by many. I have studied and followed the law of the Lord as well as the prophets. I have humbly sought his face and have set myself apart from the temptations of this world. I keep myself as pure as I am able, trusting in the mercy of God Almighty. I tremble and fear Him who is faithful and true. My name is Simeon and have been eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel.

The Spirit of God has had His hand upon me and revealed to me through the Holy Spirit that I would not see death before I had witnessed the Lord's Christ. Yes, I would get to see the Messiah, praise be to his Holy name. I would bear witness to this fact to both his mother and father. My age is advancing, yet I held no doubt in my heart that would God had told me would indeed take place. I will tell you how this testimony so that you may share with others.

I woke up this morning, eyes filled with tears, but not of sorrow, but of indescribable Joy. The Spirit was upon me and I knew I had to be in the Temple of the Lord and I washed my face and hurried to the temple because today would be that day told to me. I took notice of a mother and father, filled with joy and happiness bringing their 8 day old son into the temple to be circumcised as has been our custom and our Law. They brought the sacrifice required of two turtle doves and I am not ashamed that I presented myself to the parents and took the young child in my arms and blessed God by saying, "Now, Lord, You are letting Your bond-servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, Which You have prepared in the presence of all the peoples, A light for revelation for the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

As I carefully handed the child Yashuah back to his mother, I could see looks of amazement upon their faces. They had seen and witnessed so much already in the brief span of time of the child's life that they could scarcely take it all in. I felt the Spirit of God rise in me as I blessed them and told the mother, And Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary, "Behold, this [Child] is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and as a sign to be opposed--and a sword will pierce your own soul--to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

To have read the ancient writings of my people. To study the mysteries and here the priests speak about the things of God is wonderful and inspiring. To witness, to see, oh, and too hold the messiah in your own arms recognizing the complete purity of what you held is beyond my poor ability to explain. It was like watching hope, become fact in the twinkling of an eye. No more uncertainty, no more doubt. I held the messiah in my arms. Jerusalem would be saved praise be to God. Those who sought the Lord's face and His righteousness would be saved. A well of pity touched my heart for those who would resist the Christ.

Then, no surprise to me an old woman named Anna came by who served in the temple continuously for the last seven years never leaving the temple grounds spending time praying and fasting. Her heart was also devout, and she also bore testimony to the glory of God to those witnessing this child. She could not stop speaking about the child to all those who were seeking the redemption of Jerusalem. She gave them hope.

For myself, I would never see the child again in this life. I know that I will be with him forever in the age to come so I will pass from this world in an exceedingly happy state knowing of the Lord's Salvation. I knew that ultimately the family would return every year to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover and that the Messiah would continue to grow and fulfill all which is told about him in scripture. If you are hearing this today, I encourage you to practice the faith that brought me to witness his arrival. Perhaps you will one day witness his return.