

Simeon And Anna



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And we are expecting God to do great things for us. Our scene opens tonight at Jerusalem just about one year later than what we were speaking of last evening. It's just after the birth of the Lord Jesus. The news didn't scatter in those days like they do now. They didn't have television, and the press, and so forth. The

only way they had to scatter it was from lip to ear.

And then there was an old man by the name of Simeon. And he was a priest at the temple, what we would call an old sage. He was one of God's anointed servants. God in all ages has had His servants. God in every age has someone that He can put His hands on, or His Word in. Sometimes He comes to a small number; sometimes to only one

person. But He's always had someone.

2 This man was waiting for the consolation of Israel. He was waiting for God to perform what He said He would do. He was a man with the Holy Ghost, because the Holy Ghost revealed to him, that he would not see death until he seen the Lord's Christ. He had a right to believe it.

Now, many of his priest brethren, what they called, he

had gone a little off at his head. Well, how could that be? They'd been waiting for the Messiah since the beginning of time. Now, they're in worse condition than they ever was. How could He come then?

But you see, God works in His Own ways, mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. Jesus said, "In the hour that you think not, the Son of man will come." Would not it be a wonderful time now?

3 You see, He never does anything until He takes His people together for such.

That's what I believe He is doing now, calling out the elect. When the world's in the state of prosperity, plenty to eat, and great airplanes, and all kinds of great scientists. "Aw," they say, "we're just getting ready to live. Nothing like that could happen now." It's the hour that you think not, the Son of man will come.

4 Don't you see what He's doing? He's calling His elected children together just like He did then. Simeon, and Zacharias, and Elisabeth, John the Baptist—they were just getting ready. Something was fixing to happen.

The other part of the world, even the religious world, thought they were gone off on the wrong end. They were fanatics.

But they knew what they were talking about. Simeon knowed what He was speaking of, for the

Holy Ghost said so. He had a right to believe it. If the Holy Ghost said so, that settles it.

5 I believe the same today. We have the promise of the Holy Ghost. And in this last days, He will pour out His Spirit, and He will call His Church together. He will show great signs and wonders. I believe we're seeing it, just as He promised it. So we're waiting, called fanatics. But yet, there's no two Holy Ghosts—one Holy Ghost. The same Holy

Ghost that promised this man,
He also give us a promise. We
believe it. No matter what the
world says, we believe it. God will
keep His promise. He always
has. He always will.

6 Now, Jesus, after eight days,
it was customary for Him to be
taken to the temple at Jerusalem
for the circumcision. According
to the law, the mother had to
offer a offering for her
purification.

Let's just think it's Monday morning. We're at the Temple. It's a busy day. I look along the line, like a prayer line on the right hand side of the Temple. There's about two million Jews in Palestine, many babies is born in twenty-four hours. And every day, a great line of mothers are getting in that line for the circumcision of their male children, and for the offering of the purification.

7 Let's look at that line this morning. It's about nine o'clock, and the mothers are all lined up. Each one is packing a little baby, little needle-work jackets on them, pretty little booties. Many of them are offering lambs. A lamb was a rich man's offering. But a peasant's offering (a poor person) was two turtledoves or two pigeons.

And notice along the line, there's a little girl not over eighteen, and she's standing by

herself. All the other people are keeping their distance from her. “Don’t fool around her. She’s—she’s of ill fame, because that baby she’s got was born out of the holy wedlock. So keep your distance. Don’t have nothing to do with her.” But Mary, she knew where that baby come from. She knew that was the Son of God.

8 Like today, tonight, people say we’re fanatics, because we believe in God, believe in the supernatural. But we know where

It come from. No matter what they think or what they say, we're can see their styles, the way they act. They think that we're a poor illiterate class. But we know what we got in our hearts.

All the other babies with needle-work. But this little fellow was wrapped in swaddling cloth.

9 If I understand it right, what He was wrapped in...He didn't even have any clothes when He was born. Yet He was the Creator of heavens and earth,

born in a manger in a little stable, which was a cave in a wall. So He had no clothes, and they took the wrapping off the back of the yoke of an ox, and wrapped Him in it. Here He is in swaddling cloth.

10 He didn't look much to the rest of them, but to His mother who knew who He was, it was a jewel. So is it tonight, everyone who holds Him deep in their heart, the same.

As they moved up...

Now, if God makes a promise, God's got to keep His promise. God promised Simeon, by the same Holy Ghost that promised you, promised me, that he wouldn't die until he seen the Christ.

11 Let's look at him. He's over in the study room. He picks up the Bible and he reads it. All of a sudden, the Holy Ghost said, "Simeon, stand on your feet." I like that.

God's gracious to His promise. The Holy Ghost was at work. The Holy Ghost...The same Holy Ghost is working here in Puerto Rico now.

12 David said, "When the deep calleth to the deep..." If there's a deep calling, there's got to be a deep to respond to it. Something like this, before there was a—a tree to grow in the earth, there had to be a earth first for the tree to grow in. Before there was a fin on a fish's

back...(Fin. Uh-hum. Fin on a fish's back, a swimmer, sail thing he...Huh? Yes.)...there had to be a water first for Him to swim in, or he wouldn't have no fin.

Now, here some time ago in America, I was reading in a newspaper where a—a little boy would eat the erasers off his pencils at school. And his mother was excited. One day she went out and she found him on the porch eating the rubber pet—the rubber pedal off of a bicycle. So

she took him to the doctor, and they taken him to the clinic, examined his body. The doctor said, “His body is craving sulfur. Sulfur.

Now, now if there's a craving here for sulfur, there's got to be a sulfur first, (Sulfur first), because if there has to be something out there to respond to this crave.

13 Listen, like this. Before there can be a creation, there has to be a Creator to create the

creation. Therefore, if there is a hunger in this crowd tonight for Divine healing, it shows there's a fountain open somewhere or you'd never have the crave. If you're craving to see the power of God, there's a power of God somewhere...?...God...?...

14 Now, if there wasn't a Scripture in the Bible that would claim Divine healing. Yet there has to be Divine healing, what your souls are calling for—calling out. The deep calling to the

deep. Then that's why you're here. The—the same Holy Ghost that give Simeon the promise, is the same Holy Ghost that tells you that there's healing power here. Then from around this city, across these hills, the same Holy Ghost that led Simeon, has led you here to keep the promise. “In the last days I'll pour out My Spirit upon the people. Signs and wonders will be...?...” That same Holy Ghost is keeping His promise. Just like He did for Simeon.

Now, if Christ was in the temple, then it's the Holy Ghost's duty to bring them to see Him, who believes the promise. So is it tonight. If Christ is here, Christ-loving people (They love Him.) is drawn by His Spirit here to see His mighty works. Let's see Simeon.

15 He's setting back in the temple, reading. The Holy Ghost said, "Raise up. Walk." I reckon.

Do you believe the sons of God are led by the Spirit of God?

You don't have to be smart; you just have to have faith in the One's a leading you.

16 One time, I remember, I was coming from Dallas, Texas. I was coming home and a storm came up; and the plane had to come down at Memphis, Tennessee. And they had to put me up in a hotel till the next morning. They said, "We will leave at seven o'clock. The limousine will pick you up at six."

All right. And tonight I wrote some letters.

I got up the next morning, started to mail the letters. I was going down the street. The Holy Ghost came, said, “Stop. Turn around. Go back. Keep walking.” I looked at my watch; I just kept walking.

17 Down out of the big part of the city, way down on the river...(What do you call colored people here?) down to where the Negroes people live. And I was

going down the street, the Holy Spirit said, “Just keep walking.” I know that you believe that we’re led by the Holy Ghost. And I looked at my watch; it was almost seven o’clock. The Holy Spirit said, “Keep walking.”

I looked, hanging over the gate—leaning over a gate, a little bitty house, there was a—a great big woman. And I started to pass by her.

She said, “Good morning, minister.” (A minister).

I turned and looked at her. I said, “How did you know I was a minister?”

She said, “I knew you were coming.” God works on both ends of the line. This has happened thousands of times. I’m just telling you this one, for it’s on my heart.

And I looked at her, I said, “Auntie (lady), how did you know I was a minister?”

She said, “Last night I was in prayer. I’ve got a boy, and he

was given to me by the Lord.” Said, “Did you ever read in the Bible where the Shunammite woman wanted a boy? And the prophet Elijah blessed her, and she had a boy.”

I said, “I remember the case.”

She said, “I was that kind of woman. God gave me a boy. But I’m sorry, he got out in the wrong company, and he caught a disease—a social disease—and he’s dying, backslidden.” Said, “The doctor was here two days

ago, and said, 'He will never come to no more. The valves in his heart is eat up by the disease.'" And said, "He's laying..." said, "He's laying there dying. And I just can't stand to see him die like that. He's my baby." And said, "I prayed all night. 'O Lord, You give me this boy. But have You an Elijah?'" And said, "I went to sleep, and the Lord said to me at three o'clock this morning, 'Go stand at the gate. One's coming down the street.'" Said, "He'll be wearing a

gray suit and a brown hat.” And said, “I’ve been standing here since before day. And I seen you coming, the Holy Spirit said...?...?”

I said, “Lady, my name is Branham. I pray for the sick. Did you ever hear of me?”

She said, “No, Reverend Branham, I never heard of you.”

And I walked over, put my hand on her back; it was wet from the dew. She had a man’s shirt tied around her head. The tears was running down her

great dark cheeks. She said,
“Will you come in?”

18 When she opened up the little gate, I walked into that little two room shack. I seen no rug on the floor, just a little bed, but a sign on the door, said, “God Bless Our Home.”

I have prayed for kings in their palaces, and had the privilege of being in some of the finest homes in the world. But I never felt any more welcome in all my

life than I did in that little hut that morning.

And I looked, laying on the bed, there laid a great big boy, weighed about one hundred eighty pounds. He had the blanket in his hands, making a groaning. And he was mumbling, saying, “It’s dark.”

And I said to her, “What’s that he’s saying?”

She said, “That’s it, reverend. He’s lost, And he’s been saying that for two days. Doesn’t know

anything. Completely out of his mind. But he thinks he's out on the sea. He's cold, and cold and dark. And he's lost. Thinks he's in a boat. And he can't find his way out, and he's crying for mercy. Can you see, reverend, that's why I come and prayed to God. If I can only hear my baby say, 'Mama, I'm saved,' I will be glad to see him go home."

I said, "Shall I pray for his healing?"

She wasn't interested in that. She knowed nothing about healing. She just wanted him to be saved. She kissed him on the forehead. She said, "God bless mama's baby." Think of it.

19 Think of it. Laying there, a disgrace, in sin. But yet, that mother's love went out no matter what condition he was in. It was still mama's baby.

What love that Jesus said, God had said, "that a mother may forget her baby, but I'll

never forget you.”...?...tonight
Oh, what love God has for this
world.

I said, “Pray, Sister.” And we
got down on our knees. Oh, talk
about a prayer. She prayed till I
knowed she knowed God. I wept.
And then when she raised up,
she took her apron, wiped her
eyes. She said, “Will you pray
now?”

20 I said, “Lord, I’m already
two hours late. My plane is gone.
And I followed Your Spirit. I don’t

know why You brought me here. O Lord, You're still God. I just followed Your instructions. Is this who You wanted me to see?"

And about that time, I heard his voice of the man, the boy. He said, "Mama, it's getting light in the house." And in about five minute's time he was setting on the side of the bed with his mother and I, glorifying God.

Two years later, I was going again to the West. This time I was on a train. The sandwiches was

too high for me to buy on a train. I couldn't afford them. So I wait till we stop, and get me a sack full of hamburgers. And then, I jumped off at Memphis, started running down towards the little hamburger stand while—while the train was stopped. I heard someone holler. It was a little porter with a red cap on. "Hello, Reverend Branham." I turned—I turned; here—here he come, a young fellow, chest out, said, "You remember me?"

I said, “No.”

He said, “About a year ago you come in this city. Remember when you come down to the—to where my mama was?”

“Yeah,” I said, “I remember. You’re not the boy?”

“Yes I am. I’m not only healed, but I’m a Christian now.”

21 When I left that home that morning, I run out of the building, flagged down a cab, and hurried to the airport. And when I got out

there, two and a half hours late,
They were just making the last
call for the flight. Think of it.
Think of it.

That God through the faith of
a poor ignorant woman, didn't
know how to write her own
name, but her faith brought a
plane out of the sky and put it on
the ground...?...If we can only
be led by the Spirit.

22 Simeon was led by the
Spirit. Here—here he comes. He
don't know where he's going;

he's just walking. And he goes over to that line of women. Here he comes down along the line. He stopped in front of that little woman with that baby wrapped in swaddling cloth.

Well, now think of it. God manifested in flesh, Creator of heavens and earth, laying in a woman's arms with not even clothes to put on. A little old rag wrapped around Him.

What are we then? What do we deserve then? We think we're

somebody; we're nothing. Only by the grace of God.

23 And Simeon stopped. The Holy Spirit must've said, "Stop, Simeon. I'm going to show you a sign." And he turns his head. He runs, grabs the Baby, holds It in his arms, said, "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes see Your Salvation."

Then way over in a corner was an old blind prophetess. Her name was Anna. She couldn't

see, eighty-four years old. She fasted and prayed all the time. She too was Spirit filled. Just then the Holy Ghost said, “Stand up, Anna.” Here she comes, blind, walking through the audience, led by the Spirit, led by the Spirit. Didn’t matter where she was going, couldn’t see where she was going. But she was led by the Spirit. And the same Holy Ghost that’s leading us tonight. Don’t make any difference where you’re going, as long as you’re led by the Spirit.

Here she comes. She comes to the—Mary. She sees His face. She raised up her hands. The Holy Ghost come on her and she begin to prophesy.

That same God is here tonight. Led by the Spirit, sons and daughters of God, do you want Him to lead you to that same One tonight?

24 Let us bow our heads. Before we pray, I would like to know while you have your heads bowed in prayer, how many

would say by an uplifted hand,
“Brother Branham, remember
me in prayer.” Raise your hands.
My, thousands.

O Lord, we are all earthbound
people. We got our faces turned
towards the dust from which You
taken us. And someday we will
return to that dust if Jesus
tarries. But O God, give into our
hearts, Eternal Life. And
someday when Jesus comes,
though we be dust, when the
Sun of righteousness rises with

healing in His wings, this mortal will take on immortality, and we shall be resurrected, and caught up to meet Him in the air. Each one of those hands, give them Eternal Life, for we ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

25 I'm so glad that these wonderful thrilling stories that we read from the Bible, it isn't only a history of a historical God; it's the history of a living God that's the same today.

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