

Jesus at the Temple

From a Washington Post article posted on their website around 6:00pm yesterday:

Shortly after 8 a.m. local time Saturday, scores of Hawaii residents received an emergency cellphone alert with an alarming message: "BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL."

The message, reportedly sent by the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency in error, would turn out to be a false alarm, officials said. Nevertheless, it would take 38 minutes for authorities to clear up the mistake with a follow-up alert.

The time in between sparked a brief panic in a state where fears of an attack by North Korea have heightened in recent months. Residents and tourists reported seeking shelter, frantically gathering supplies, and calling and texting loved ones to say their goodbyes.

What happens if they now had a real alarm?

One false alarm causes problems in terms of people's response.

What if their repeated alarms?

On the other side, what if this did happen and the alarm saved millions of lives?

That is the type of message that Luke is sending in the first 2 chapters of his gospel. He is sending a message about people's salvation *and all the facts have already been confirmed... and billions of people have already been saved... so let's hear his message*

Jesus at the Temple

Luke 2:22-38 ESV

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him.³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

★ The coming of the Messiah - Jesus - brings salvation AND judgment to Jews AND Gentiles at great cost.

The Presentation of Jesus – v22-24

The presentation of Jesus at the temple by his parents was intended to be their family's attempt at fulfilling the Law in regards to the birth of a child, and in fact, the birth of a first born child. They would soon find out that the one they presented and dedicated in order to fulfill the Law was himself the fulfillment of the nation's hopes for salvation *and the law of God.*

Three ceremonies:

- Purification for the mother 40 days after the birth – Lev. 12:2-4, 6
- Presentation of the firstborn to the Lord – Ex. 13:2, 12, 15
- Dedication of the firstborn for service – 1 Sam. 1-2

Certainly part of the message in this first section is that Jesus's parents were dutiful. Their submission to the Law and its requirements is an indication of their piety.

Mary and Joseph's piety and faithfulness are the precursor to the prophecy concerning Jesus in regards to God's salvation. Their faithfulness lead to the message that the coming of the Messiah would be salvation for some but judgment for others and that this would all cost Jesus much.

The Prophecies of Simeon – v25-35

Who was this Simeon?

- A layman, not a priest
- "Righteous and devout" – a devout believer, a God-fearer, a law abider
- "Waiting for the consolation of Israel" – a watcher, a sentinel, found great comfort and hope in the fulfillment of God's plan ⇒ *Jews were comforted by the knowledge of this coming salvation*

- **Isaiah 61:1-3 ESV**
 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
 because the Lord has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor;
 he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,
 and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
 and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
 to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
 to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
 the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
 that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
 the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.
- “The Holy Spirit was upon him” – the presence of the HS is a strong divine sanction, Spirit also associated with prophecy thus the 3 prophetic events are significant to this passage

Three prophetic events:

1. Prophecy ^{directed} direct to Simeon himself – “it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.”
 - a. God had indicated that he would be privy to a special moment in redemptive history; he would see the Messiah *→ GRACE*
 - b. Sharing in a special moment – Gord and Kay
 - c. “And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God...
↳ the goodness of God
2. Prophecy directed to God – “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

- a. Seeing Jesus is seeing salvation – Christ is the very center of salvation
- b. God has prepared Israel for salvation, for Jesus
- c. This will extend to the Gentiles – Jesus is the light of the world who will reveal the path to God
- d. Light for the gentiles and glory for Israel – salvation comes through the Jews

i. **Romans 9:1-5 ESV** ¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— ²that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

This hymn by Simeon is

- e. Confirmation of previous prophetic instances in the birth narratives of John and Jesus. Bock: The theme of all three hymns is “God is acting for his people Israel. He is saving them according to his plan and promise. That salvation is found in Jesus.”
- f. Luke is making it all very clear to us: **“The Gospel of Luke is the biblical account of God’s plan of salvation for all those who humbly trust Christ.”**
- g. The third prophetic event adds some new material

3. Prophecy directed to Mary - “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

- ^{in this prophecy} 1) a. Two images representing the effect of Jesus's salvation on the nations and the effect on Mary (falling and rising and sword):
- 2) i. Falling and rising
1. Falling speaks to the judgment of the haughty and arrogant in Israel → judgment is a new idea to salvation theme → in regards to Jews, it
 2. **Jim Hamilton** in *God's Glory in Salvation through Judgment*: Salvation always comes through judgment. Salvation for the nation of Israel at the Exodus came through the judgment of Egypt, and this pattern is repeated throughout the Old Testament, becoming paradigmatic even into the New. When God saves his people, he delivers them by bringing judgment on their enemies. This is not limited to Old Testament enemies such as the Philistines. At the cross, the ruler of this world was cast out (John 12:31). At the consummation Jesus will come to afflict those who afflict his people (2 Thess. 1:6, cf. 6-10). Salvation for all believers of all ages is made possible by the judgment that falls on Jesus the cross. The cross allows God to be just and the justifier of at the one who has faith in Jesus (Rom. 26). The cross of Christ, the climactic expression of the glory of God in salvation through judgment, is the turning point of the ages.
 3. There is judgment for those who do not humbly receive this salvation – GOSPEL
 4. Rising speaks to the salvation of the humble and meek – GOSPEL
- ii. Sword
1. The sword piercing the soul of Mary indicates her profound emotional suffering that will be a result of Jesus's salvation

2. This indicates that there will be a great cost involved for Christ- his suffering and death: **Luke 24:44-47 ESV** *[IN JESUS'S WORDS]*
 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

The coming of the Messiah brings salvation AND judgment to Jews AND Gentiles at a great cost.

The Proclamation of Anna – 36-38

Who was she?

- A prophetess – divine sanction of her godliness
- A woman advanced in years...possibly over 100
- Devoted to worshipping and praying to God
- Luke's reversals and promoting the humble

Two responses: thanking God and telling people

Application

1) Parents, Be Faithful - *Mary and Joseph faithfully fulfilled the Law!*

All parents should take this as an encouragement to be faithful in the raising of their children. They would have had some idea of Jesus's destiny, what he would do and accomplish, but verse 33 indicates they marvelled at what they heard. They didn't have all the answers. And yet, they were faithful to what God had called them to as parents. Let's remain faithful as parents.

Who knows what wonderful work of God will be preceded by some small act of faithfulness ???

2) Seniors, Lead *→ Zechariah, Elizabeth, Simeon, Anna*

- not just grow, but lead
- we see: • parking • newcomers to lunch • volunteering • *parachurch* • *- in church (greeters, ushers)*
- public vs behind-the-scenes, in word vs. in deed

3) Saved, Respond

Thanking God and telling people

↳ grateful praise, thankful worship

↳ willingness to tell people about this salvation