You can dismiss (your servant in peace)…”

-Nunc Dimittis (Latin)  •  “Now, Master, You can dismiss you servant in peace” (English)

About Simeon

• Apart from what we know from Luke 2, we know nothing about this man.
• We don’t know his background, his hometown, his education or even his vocation.
• We assume he was a priest—but we don’t know that for sure.
• We assume he was old—but we don’t know that for sure.
• He appears on the stage for a brief moment and then disappears.
• From Scripture, we know his name, Simeon; we know he was righteous and devout; and, we know he was looking forward to “Israel’s consolation.”
• He had been told, by God, that he would not die until he saw the Messiah.
• From scripture, we know that he took the baby Jesus from the arms of Mary and held Him up and sang a song to God.

About Simeon’s Song

Three Observations about "Why" Simeon Sang to God:

1. Because of WHO appeared.

Luke 2:29–30, NIV - 29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation…”

Luke 2:29–30, NLT - 29 “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. 30 I have seen Your salvation….”

Who is this Child?

• “The Lord’s Messiah” (v. 26)
• Man’s Salvation (v. 30)

2. Because of WHY He arrived.

Luke 2:29–32, NASB95 - 29 “Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation, 31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel.”

Why did this Child come?

• To provide salvation (v. 30)
• To provide light of revelation (v. 32a)
• To provide glory (v. 32b)

3. Because of WHAT He would accomplish.

Luke 2:33–35, NASB95 - 33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed— 35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

What did this Child accomplish?

• He became a stone (Mishnah)
• He became a sign (v. 34)
• He became a sword (v. 35)

Lessons from Simeon’s Song

If you consider WHO arrived, WHY He came and WHAT He accomplished, it should lead you to sing also.