



Week 7

Sermon Series: Songs of the Savior

Sermon Title: The Fourth Song

Sermon Text: Luke 2:22-40

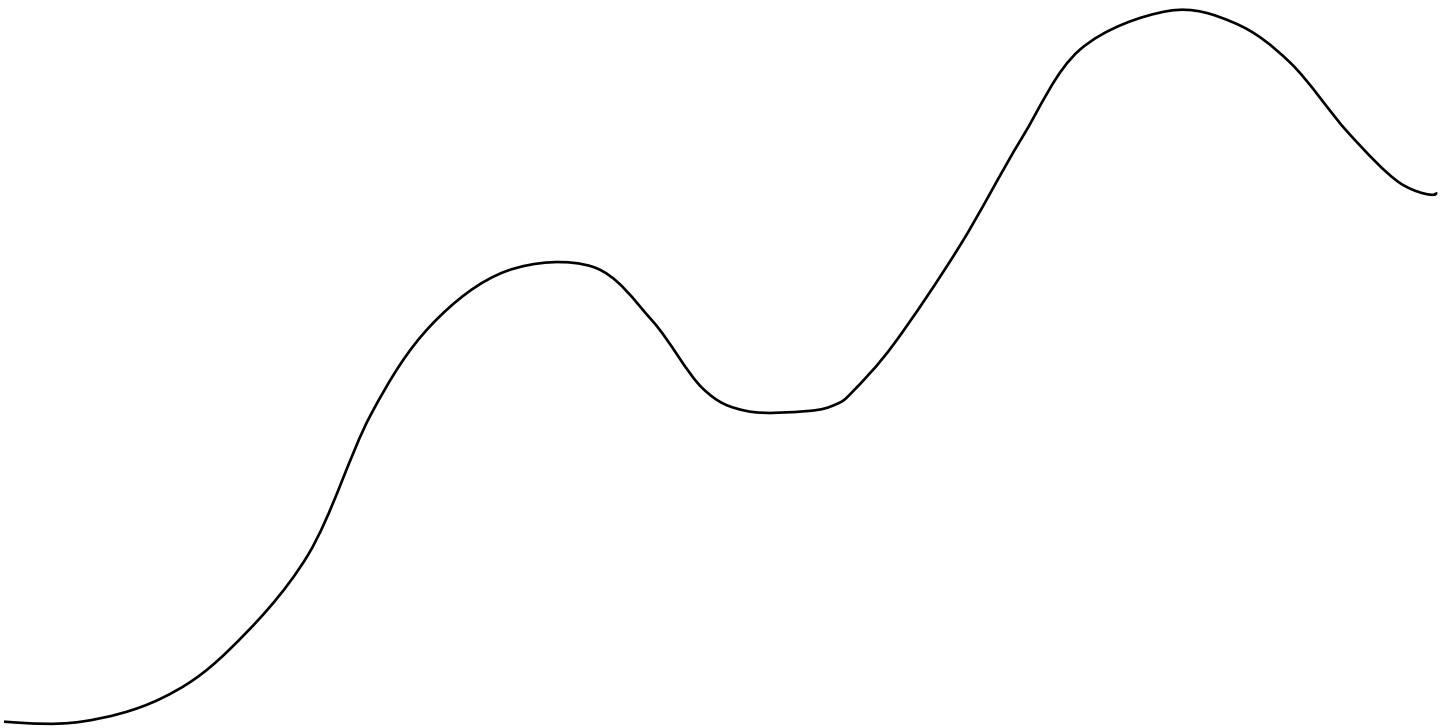
Group Week of: May 7, 2023

Sermon Date: May 14, 2023

| Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies | |
|--|--|
| Day 1 | Purification Laws – Leviticus 12:1-8 |
| Day 2 | The Firstborn – Exodus 13:1-16 |
| Day 3 | Light to the Gentiles – Isaiah 49:1-7 |
| Day 4 | Consolation of Israel – Isaiah 49:8-26 |
| Day 5 | The Rock of Stumbling – Isaiah 8:11-18 |

Instructions

- 1) Pray for the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to His words.
- 2) Read the passage.
- 3) Using the story arc below, insert the verses according to how you see the story begin, grow, climax, fall, and finish.
- 4) Write out the main lesson(s) of the story.
- 5) Write out some of the other lessons along the way.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson (lessons) that you see God teaching through Luke in this passage?
- 2) What does it mean that Simeon waits for “the consolation of Israel”?
- 3) What do you see in Simeon’s song that you have not seen in Zechariah’s or Mary’s?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) The people of Israel were burdened, saddened, and dejected about the situation their country was in. They longed for the consolation of their land and for the Messiah to come and set things right. America, in many ways, needs consolation today. Do we need to wait for Christ to return, or is there consolation for America available today? And if so, how will that consolation be brought to our nation?
- 2) What is necessary for someone to be ready to die?
- 3) Simeon needed only one thing to be ready for death – to see the Messiah. What about you? Is there something that you need to do or see before you die?
- 4) He says in verses 29-30 that because he has seen salvation, he is ready to die. Could you say the same to God in truthful honesty today? How ready are you for death? How ready should we as Christians be for death?
- 5) Although Simeon calls Jesus “salvation...prepared in the sight of all nations”, we know that the name of Christ has not yet reached the ends of the earth. Billions of people have yet to hear the gospel. What are you doing to advance the name of Christ where He has not yet been named? Could God be calling you to personally go in either short-term or long-term mission work? Are you open to that calling if He is?
- 6) Simeon says that though Jesus is salvation, He is also one destined “to cause [the] falling and rising of many in Israel.” Jesus continues to do this in our world today; many people stumble over the Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:7-8). However, it is still difficult to share the gospel with someone and have them reject Jesus (often it feels like we are the ones rejected). How can Simeon’s faith help us in those moments?
- 7) Anna appears to not have had a job for many years and instead focused upon praying, fasting, and worshiping. Do you think Anna has spent her time well these years? Should you ever find yourself in her shoes (perhaps you are already in them) and it seems you can do nothing for God except pray, worship, and fast, would you feel that your life is full or would you feel that it is a waste? Discuss with your life group what it means to have a full and satisfying life.