

AFTER THE ENCOUNTER

Based on Luke 2:22--40

Imagine for a moment that you are Simeon following the encounter that he had with the infant boy(Jesus) that he saw in the Temple at Jerusalem. Imagine what he must have been feeling and how he now describes what happened to others. It might go something like this.

"I found the Messiah, just as it was revealed to me by the Holy Spirit, that I would not pass away until I had seen the one whom God had promised to send. Well today, the Holy Spirit led me to the Temple. I went in and there I saw a man and a woman with a child, a baby boy. I went over and asked if I might hold him. They were hesitant, but the woman handed the child into my arms. Looking at his face, I knew this was the one that I have been hoping to see. I began to have an overwhelming feeling of joy."

"I'm sure the parents must have thought me to be a madman, but I assured them I was not. I then shared with them what I had been promised by God and that through their son, God had kept his word to me. I had seen the Lord's salvation wrapped up in this child and he would be the light that would shine forth for all people, Gentiles as well as God's people, Israel."

"I blessed them and said to the mother what her child would mean to the world and the great things he would accomplish. It may mean for her and others some rough times, for many will not accept him, but many will and would see that light and come to know redemption through this boy."

"I thanked the parents and handed the child back to his mother and made my way out of the Temple saying, 'Glory to God in the highest.' I am now at peace."

Can you get a sense of what Simeon was feeling? What if you had been the one listening to him? What do his words mean to you? What feelings do his words give rise to in your hearts? Take some time to consider these things. I leave you to your thoughts.

May the light that comes through the Lord Jesus Christ bring you to his peace. Amen