



2021 Walk to Bethlehem



Week 12 Meditation

A Promise Fulfilled

*“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
You now dismissed your servant in peace.
For my eyes, have seen your salvation,
Which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
And for glory to your people Israel.”*

Luke 2:29-32

Waiting is becoming increasingly unacceptable in a society that prides itself on instant results. Perhaps our technology has advanced in the 21st century, but the impatient, “I want it now” feeling has probably always been a part of the human experience. There have always been people who were better at waiting than others.

Through the ages, God promised Israel the hope of a Messiah. The book of Isaiah refers repeatedly to the coming of the Messiah. This book was written 400 years before the birth of Jesus. People waited. As the years passed, the excitement must have grown. When would the Messiah be born? Who would birth the Messiah? Finally, Scripture tells us of Simeon, a man of advanced years (Luke 2:25). He was full of the Holy Spirit and “it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ” (Luke 2:26). When Jesus’ parents brought Him to the temple as was required by the law of Moses, Simeon was there waiting for Him. When Simeon saw the child Jesus, he took him in his arms and praised God! Simeon knew that the promise of the Messiah had been fulfilled. He was holding that promise in his arms. The waiting was over. The Messiah had come! Now Simeon could depart in peace.

As we celebrate Christmas, may we be awed by the birth of the Messiah, an event that occurred over two thousand years ago. May we remember that God’s promises are always fulfilled. In Revelation, He says, *“Behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book”* (Revelation 22:7).

Two thousand years is a long time to wait. May we never underestimate the magnitude of the promise that Jesus will return. May we live each day as Simeon did – in righteousness, devotion and expectation.

Questions to ponder:

- 1. What happens when we become weary of waiting? How do we behave?*
- 2. What is the most difficult thing you ever had to wait for?*
- 3. Are you waiting for something now?*
- 4. Can you compare the birth of a child with the 2nd coming of Christ?*