

The Consolation of Israel

December 31, 2017 – Luke 2:28-32; 34-35

“Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying: Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss 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..... Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Comfort, Comfort Ye my people.

What do you do, or what gives you comfort in the midst of a stress filled day?

Do you enjoy listening to some soft music? Do you enjoy a nice hot bath? Do you find comfort taking a long walk? Walking in the woods? Talking with your spouse? Vacuuming the house? Going Hunting? Playing with the cats or the dog? Working out at the gym?

Simeon was waiting for the Consolation of Israel, as we are told in:

Luke 2:25 – “Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the Consolation - Παρακλησιν - of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.”

Then Simeon held the Consolation of Israel in his arms as he praised God with the Words of the Nunc Dimittis,
Now Dismiss your servant in peace.

This Consolation of Israel is all the more clearly explained for us in:

In **1 John 2:1-2** – which reads:

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin, but if anybody does sin, we have One Who speaks (Advocate / Helper / Intercessor - παρακλητον -) to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2- He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”