

*Heaven
came
Down*

**A Heart
Prepared for
Christ**
LUKE 2:21-32



Shepherd's Field



A HEART PREPARED FOR CHRIST

I. Christ's Preparation for Us

II. Our Preparation for Christ



I. CHRIST'S PREPARATION FOR US

vs. 21-24

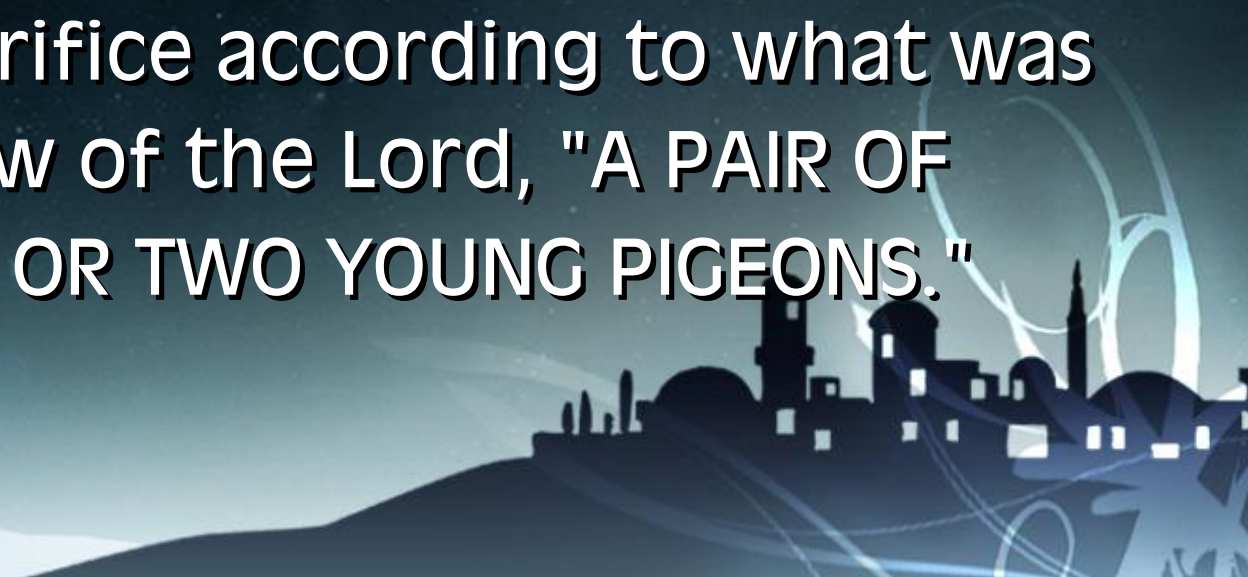
And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to



I. CHRIST'S PREPARATION FOR US

vs. 21-24

Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS."

A silhouette of the Jerusalem skyline, including the Dome of the Rock and other buildings, is visible in the bottom right corner. A glowing, ethereal blue and white halo surrounds the skyline, adding a spiritual or divine atmosphere to the scene.

I. CHRIST'S PREPARATION FOR US

A. He came as a man – circumcision

EXODUS 13:2

"Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."



I. CHRIST'S PREPARATION FOR US

A. He came as a man – circumcision

GALATIANS 5:3

And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.



I. CHRIST'S PREPARATION FOR US

A. He came as a man – circumcision

HEBREWS 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses,



I. CHRIST'S PREPARATION FOR US

A. He came as a man – circumcision

HEBREWS 4:14-16

but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



I. CHRIST'S PREPARATION FOR US

B. He knew His purpose.

His name, Jesus, means "Yahweh is salvation."

MATTHEW 1:21

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."



I. CHRIST'S PREPARATION FOR US

C. God worked through a poor, simple couple



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

vs. 25-32

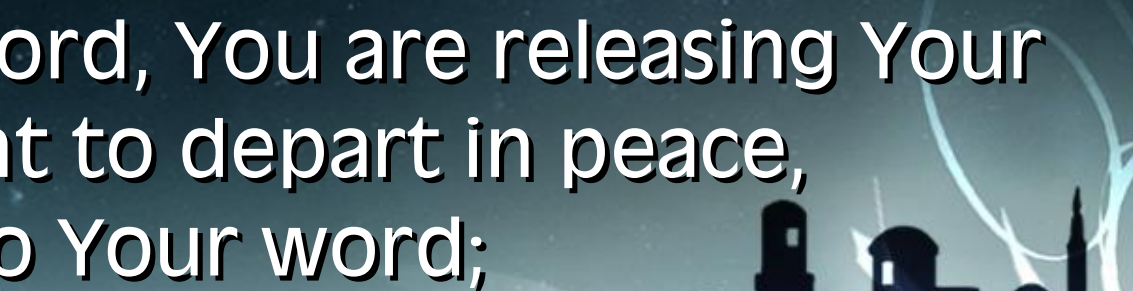
And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

vs. 25-32

Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word;



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

vs. 25-32

For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
Which You have prepared in the
presence of all peoples, A LIGHT OF
REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the
glory of Your people Israel."



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

A. Character – Simeon was righteous
and devout

Righteous: faultless, guiltless, used of a person whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is wholly conformed to the will of God

Devout: reverencing God, holding tightly, dutiful



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

A. Character – Simeon was righteous
and devout

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

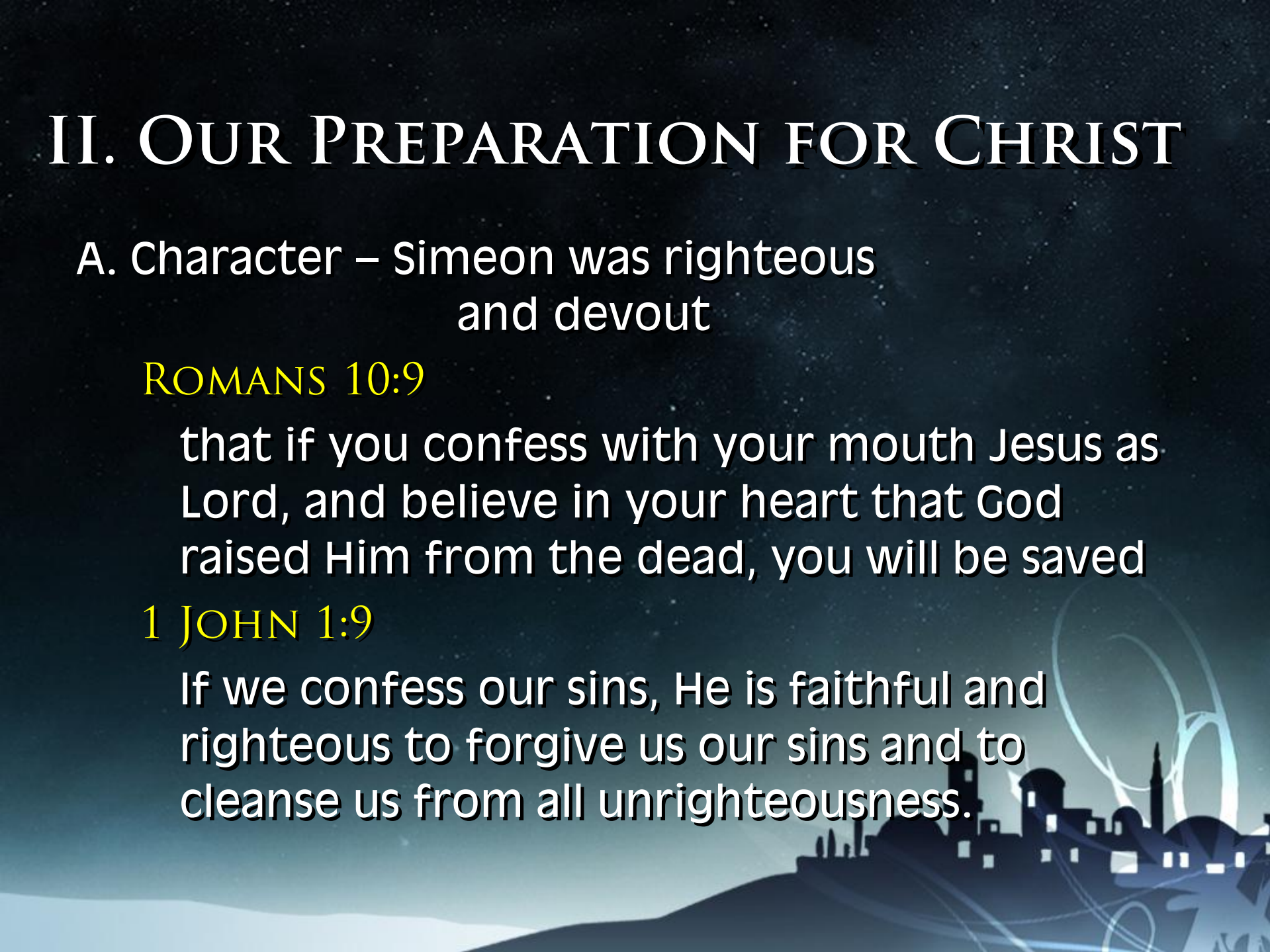
A. Character – Simeon was righteous
and devout

ROMANS 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

B. Hope – Simeon was looking for the consolation of Israel in the Messiah

Luke 2:25

“...*looking for* the consolation of Israel...”

What are you looking for in life?

A silhouette of a city skyline, including a prominent dome and spire, is shown against a dark blue background. A glowing blue halo or aura surrounds the city, with light rays emanating from it. The overall scene is set against a dark, starry night sky.

II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

Romans 8:24-25

For in **hope** we have been saved, but **hope** that is seen is not **hope**; for who **hopes** for what he already sees? But if we **hope** for what we do not see, with perseverance we **wait** eagerly for it.



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

2 Peter 3:10-15

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

2 Peter 3:10-15

godliness, **looking for** and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are **looking for** new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

2 Peter 3:10-15

Therefore, beloved, since you **look for** these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the **patience** of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we **look** not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

C. Power – the Holy Spirit was upon him, taught him, and led him

Luke 2:25-27

"the Holy Spirit was upon him... revealed to him by the Holy Spirit... he came in the Spirit..."

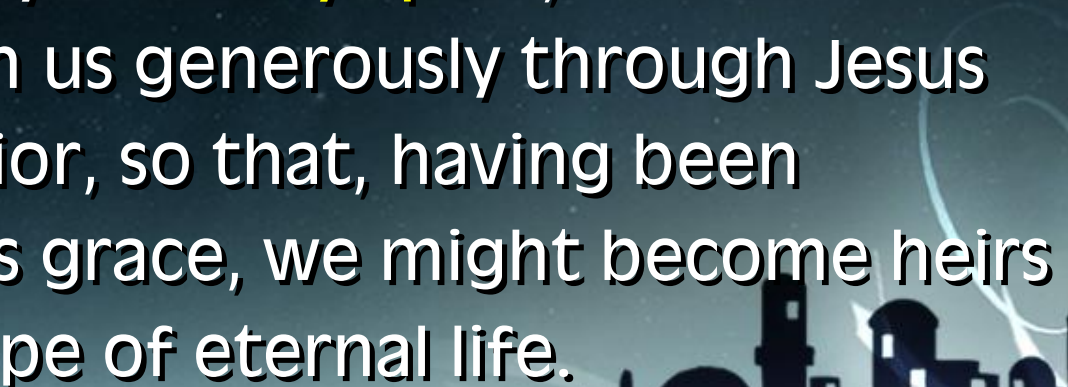


II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

C. Power – the Holy Spirit was upon him, taught him, and led him

TITUS 3:5-7

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the **Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.



II. OUR PREPARATION FOR CHRIST

D. Peace – He blessed God and said that he could die in peace now that he has seen Jesus

LUKE 2:29-30

Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation,



HEART PREPARED FOR CHRIST

- *Are you ready to die in peace?*
- *Have you seen the salvation of Christ?*
- *Have you personally received Christ into your life?*
- *Pray with someone at the Prayer Booth or fill out The CARD so we can walk with you.*



RESPONSE TIME

Prayer

There are people available to pray with at our prayer booth in the back.

Communion

We have elements at the stations for you to receive communion as you remember Christ's death.

Giving

You may bring your gift of offering before the Lord to the stations.



RESPONSE

As we worship, consider what you are looking for? Are you looking for things of this world? Or are you looking for Jesus?

During this next couple minutes we will be looking at some verses on the screen about what we are “looking for” and the countdown will end with us singing worship and praise to God. So let’s prepare our hearts to worship our coming King right now.

