

Embrace God's Plan This Christmas

Living Hope in Troubled Times – Part 7

Life Church St. Louis – December 24, 2023

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Psalm 130:5-6 (ESV) I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

Isaiah 52:8 (ESV) The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

1. Live in _____

Luke 2:21 (ESV) And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:22, 24 (ESV) And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ... and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord.

2. Wait on God's _____

Luke 2:25-26 (ESV) Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting 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 Christ.

Luke 2:27 (ESV) And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,

Luke 2:28-32 (ESV) he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

3. _____ God's salvation

Luke 2:36-37 (ESV) And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

Luke 2:38 (ESV) And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Embrace God's Plan This Christmas Study Guide
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Intro. What do you believe is God's plan for your life?

In what ways are you to be a watchman, waiting for God's plan to unfold (Psalm 130:5-6)?

How can you rejoice in the fulfilling of that plan, even when it has not yet been completely fulfilled (Isaiah 52:8)?

How can God's plan in sending Jesus into the world at Christmas serve as an example to understand God's plan for your life?

1A. How do we see Joseph and Mary demonstrate obedience in Luke 2:21?

1B. Why do you think that Joseph and Mary were so careful to follow every detail of God's Word regarding their son Jesus (Luke 2:22, 24)?

1C. In what ways did God's plan for Joseph and Mary completely upend their plans for their lives?

1D. What do you believe is God's next step in His plan for your life?

2A. What is remarkable about Simeon expectantly waiting for the Messiah, even though there had been no prophesy for 400 years (Luke 2:25-26)?

2B. What role did the Holy Spirit play in Simeon's following of God's plan (Luke 2:27)?

2C. How would you describe Simeon's reaction to seeing God's plan for His life fulfilled (Luke 2:28-32)?

2D. What promises from God are you waiting as a watchman to be fulfilled?

3A. What characteristics of Anna can serve as an example for you in following God's plan (Luke 2:36-37)?

3B. Why did Anna tell everyone the good news of Jesus despite having a difficult life (Luke 2:38)?

3C. How can you overcome the difficulties in your life to continue following God's plan?