

WHAT DID SIMEON SEE?

Simeon said: “**My eyes have seen your salvation . . .**” (Lk. 2:30). But what did Simeon see? He saw a baby!

This simple statement of fact provides insight into a paradigm shift that has taken place in our modern world. In the Bible, godly people always saw babies in a positive light. Only wicked people like Herod and the Pharaoh wanted to kill little babies. Today, however, many if not most people, see little babies in a negative light. They are seen, not as an asset for the future, but as liabilities. Since the infamous Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973 more than 40 million innocent little babies have been murdered in their mother’s wombs.

MSN - Money states that families making between \$41,700 - \$70,200 will spend an average of \$186,320 raising a child from infancy to age 17. Families making more money spend an average of \$269,520 per child. In addition to the growing expense of raising babies is their inevitable inconvenience. How can an enterprising young couple enjoy the “good life” if they have to drag around a baby who is crying out for constant care. Explosions are obviously destructive, and yet this is precisely the word used to describe the birth of little babies in our modern world. Their entrance into the world is not celebrated but feared as a population “explosion”.

Please consider how differently little babies were looked at in Bible times.

- Adam and Eve were commanded to be fruitful and increase in number (Gen. 1:22).
- They were promised that the “seed of woman” would crush the serpent’s head (Gen. 3:15).
- Eve was happy to have a baby, perhaps he would one day destroy the serpent (Gen. 4:2).
- Eve rejoiced at the birth of Seth to take the place of her deceased son Abel (Gen. 4:25).
- Abraham was promised that his “seed” would bless all the families of the earth (Gen. 12:7).
- The covenant of circumcision helped focus on babies for future generations (Gen. 17).
- The barren womb was considered a curse (Gen. 20:17; 25:21; 29:31; Deut. 7:14, etc.)
- God promised that the baby Ishmael would become a great nation (Gen. 17:20).
- Jacob prophesied about God’s future plans for each of his 12 children (Gen. 49).
- God used the baby Moses to deliver a nation of slaves from Egypt.
- God promised that the baby Samson would someday deliver Israel (Judges 13:5).
- Hannah dedicated the baby Samuel to the Lord before he was even born (1 Sam. 1:11).
- Before baby Cyrus was born God predicted that he would rebuild Jerusalem (Is. 44:28).
- Josiah was predicted to be a great reformer before he was born (1 Ki. 13:2).
- Jeremiah was appointed to be a prophet while still in his mother’s womb (Jer. 1:5).
- Paul was set apart from birth to be an apostle to the gentiles (Gal. 1:15).
- Baby Joash was spared from death and became king (2 Chron. 22 - 23), Etc.

From the opening chapters of Scripture little babies were eagerly anticipated as positive harbingers of progress and change. Jesus, of course, was the ultimate child. His birth and infancy were not negative images to be dreaded, but rather a source of celebration among godly people. The fact that a virgin would conceive inspired songs of hope. Simeon saw what godly people had been looking for since Eden. Isaiah said it like this: “**For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**” (Isa 9:6)

What about you? Can you look at the birth of a little baby with the biblical perspective of optimism and hope? Can you dare to dream that the helpless infant may someday be the vehicle God uses to cure cancer, deliver slaves, feed the hungry, or guide the nation? Can you weep with the angels when the hope of tomorrow falls victim to the cruel monster of abortion. Can you see what Simeon saw? Let us project our thoughts into the happy future when the lion and the lamb will lie down together and a little child will lead the world to serenity and peace!