

# the CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL

"And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, **waiting for the Consolation of Israel**: and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen **the Lord's Christ**. And he came by the Spirit into the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him after the custom of the law; then he took Him up into his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen **Your Salvation**, which You have prepared before the face of all people; a Light to Enlighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your People Israel." (Luke 2:25-32)

A unique title, used in reference to the promised Messiah of Israel.

**Consolation:** from the Greek word *paraklesis* which means "a calling to one's aid, i.e. consolation, encouragement, comfort, exhortation, entreaty."

A name for the Messiah in common use among the Jews, perhaps suggested by Isaiah; "Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains; **for the LORD has comforted** His people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." (Isaiah 49:13)

The word '**consolation**' means "comfort received after a loss or disappointment." The people of Israel had lost their kingdom and line of kings. Many of their people were dispersed throughout the Roman Empire, and beyond. They were oppressed within their own homeland. They lived with this sense of loss and disappointment. They desperately longed for the coming of God's promised Messiah.

Simeon, like many of his fellow Israelites, thus viewed the promised Messiah as the Consolation, or Comforter, of Israel. When he saw the child Jesus in the Temple, he knew, by the Spirit of God, **that Jesus was the Consolation of Israel.** And by the Spirit he prophetically declared Jesus to be God's Salvation, and a Light to Enlighten the Gentiles, and the Glory of God's People Israel. Consider these verses"

"And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and, as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has **anointed Me** to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are bruised; and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." And He closed the book, and He gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And He began to say unto them, "Today is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."" (Luke 4:16-21)

## Jesus is...

### the Consolation of Israel

sent to heal the brokenhearted  
sent to preach the gospel to the poor  
sent to set at liberty those who are bruised,  
sent to proclaim recovering of sight to the blind,  
sent to preach deliverance to those who are captives,

**Jesus is... the Lord's Salvation;  
the Glory of God's People Israel, and a Light to Enlighten the Gentiles!**

**All Praise and Glory and Honor be to You Lord Jesus!  
You are our Consolation, and our Comforter, and our Encourager!**