

THE PAIN AND GAIN OF CHRISTMAS

Luke 2:22-35 Jeff Schreve

Do you realize that the Messiah brings both pain and gain?

1. He is the Savior of the world who saves Jews and Gentiles.

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; 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." Luke 2:27-32

A. That is great news for Gentiles.

... and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world." John 4:42

B. That is amazing news for the Jews.

And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. Acts 10:45

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." Luke 2:34-35

2. He is the chief corner stone who causes inevitable division.

"BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." Romans 9:33

A. Those who proudly reject Him will fall.

B. Those who humbly receive Him will rise.

"And he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust." Matthew 21:44

3. He is a divine miracle who produces intense opposition.

A. The Jews did not receive Him.

"And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. John 3:19-20

B. The Jews chose their sin over God's Son.

Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." John 11:47-48

4. He is a sword who brings pain and gain to true followers.



A. Suffering is part of the deal on earth.

"... for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:16

B. Glory is all of the deal in heaven.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

Can you say with Simeon that you have embraced His salvation?