

**Prophets Point to Jesus**  
**Dec 20, 2009**  
Mal 3:1-2 and Luke 2:22-32  
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**Synopsis:**

At Christmas time we think of home. Maybe it's a place we've been and long for; maybe it's a place we've never been, but we still long for it.

In our series of sermons, we have been watching the prophets point to Jesus as the answer to Israel's longing for home. Israel was a people away from home. The technical term for *away from home* is exile. Israel was in exile, first under Babylon and now under Rome, because they did not submit to God's plan to bless all the families of the earth. Now God was going to show up in person to do that which Israel was supposed to do—bring the people home and be a light to the nations.

The surprise for them and for us is that home isn't a *place* but a *person*, Jesus the Messiah. We find home when Jesus finds us.

I.

**Where's Home?**

Luke 2:25 Simeon . . . looking for the consolation of Israel

Home at Christmas: Longing in everyone to get home

E.g. Sing *Blue Christmas*

E.g. Mama used to sing *Going Home*

Dvorak New World Symphony

\*Home hints at something more

Home: Where is home for you?

-Tennessee, Colorado, Michigan?

How do we get home at Christmas?

II.

**Away from Home**

Mal 3:1 And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly return

Israel Away from Home = Exile in Bible

Texts from last few weeks = exile texts

Jeremiah 31 New Covenant

Isaiah 40 Comfort, Wilderness

Malachi 3 and 4

587 BC Babylon conquers and takes to exile

People sort of return, but never really

Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome

Longing in people

Longing in prophets for two things

1. Return to J and R (Elijah in 1Kgs 18, Malachi 3 and 4)
2. Comfort and Joy (Isaiah 40)

Malachi 3 and 4

READ Mal 3:1-2

- writing in post-exile
- Messenger = Malachi
- Messenger will come before Lord returns
- \*To temple (Mal 3) = comfort
- \*To bring Day of Lord (Mal 4) = J and R
- \*Mal 3 quoted in gospels:  
“I send my messenger” before the Lord comes

Simeon in Luke 2: Longing

READ Luke 2:22-32

Note the following:

1. 25 Waiting for consolation = exile to be over
  2. 26 Messiah = Lord going to show up
  3. 30 Salvation = come home to temple and J and R
  4. 32 Light = blessing to all families (Abraham)
- \*KEY POINT = salvation is not a program, movement, etc  
SALVATION IS A PERSON

Read:

- 28 took him in his arms
- 30 eyes have seen salvation
- 34 this child

\*How do we get home? Through Jesus the Messiah

III.

**How Do We Get Home This Christmas?**

Luke 2:28 Simeon took him in his arms

1943 Men and Women away from home = WWII

- 1941 Pearl Harbor attacked
- 1944 D-Day still in the future
- Bing Crosby sang a song became his 5<sup>th</sup> golden record
- hit soldiers right where they were = away from home

*I'm dreamin' tonight of a place I love  
Even more than I usually do  
And although I know it's a long road back  
I promise you*

*I'll be home for Christmas  
You can count on me  
Please have snow and mistletoe  
And presents under the tree  
Christmas Eve will find me  
Where the love light beams  
I'll be home for Christmas  
If only in my dreams*

Our longing at Christmas is a longing for return from exile

*I'll Be Home for Christmas* = home  
*Blue Christmas* = longing for a person

How do you get home?

- not back to Tenn, Colorado, Michigan
- not back to a family that wasn't
  
- to comfort and joy
- to things set right (J and R)
- to good news for a great joy to all people

Get home when you meet Jesus as did Simeon  
Can do that right now by power of Holy Spirit  
-notice Spirit (3x) in Luke 2:22-32  
-God the Spirit can meet you now

PRAY asking Jesus to show up