

12/26/2021 - Speaker - Al Schaap  
Luke 2:21-40 (p. 1015 in Worship Center Bibles)  
Songs of Christmas: Simeon & Anna & Us!

***“This Child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” (Luke 2:34b-35)***

What are some ways you’ve seen association with Jesus bring a “sword” to your soul?

**Luke 2:12-40 - Notes:**

How have you responded to such calls to the battle?

Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. How do such “piercing” times show evidence that you are truly associated with Jesus? And what are our best responses to such times?

Read 1 Peter 5:6-11. Look at some of the keys for staying faithful to God and growing through these trials:

- Humility under God’s mighty hand (6)
- Throwing all anxieties His way (7)
- Being self-controlled & alert (8)
- Resisting Satan - because our brothers & sisters throughout the world are also in the battle - how does that help? (9)
- Looking beyond the suffering to God eventually restoring us, making us strong, firm, steadfast...and giving us glory in Christ (10)
- Remembering Who has the ultimate power! (11)

How can you encourage brothers & sisters (near you and around the world) who are going through piercing times?

**More ways I’ve seen God show up this year:**

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