



# Daily Reflections

**December 31, 2017**

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## Scripture

### **Luke 2: 22-40**

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses,  
They took him up to Jerusalem  
to present him to the Lord,  
just as it is written in the law of the Lord,  
Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,  
and to offer the sacrifice of  
a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,  
in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.  
Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon.  
This man was righteous and devout,  
awaiting the consolation of Israel,  
and the Holy Spirit was upon him.  
It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit  
that he should not see death  
before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.  
He came in the Spirit into the temple;  
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus  
to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,  
He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:  
"Now, Master, you may let your servant go  
in peace, according to your word,  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;  
and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,

"Behold, this child is destined  
for the fall and rise of many in Israel,  
and to be a sign that will be contradicted  
—and you yourself a sword will pierce—  
so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was also a prophetess, Anna,  
the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher.

She was advanced in years,  
having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage,  
and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.

She never left the temple,  
but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.

And coming forward at that very time,  
she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child  
to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions  
of the law of the Lord,  
they returned to Galilee,  
to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

Well, just a few hours remain before we ring in the new year. And what is your resolution? Most people make a resolution but usually break it shortly after the new year is underway. How about a resolution that can handle fits and starts, ups and downs and sideways?? Resolve to tithe a portion of your time to Jesus. Get out your calendar or computer and calculate a percentage of your week to be offered to the Lord. What you do during that time is up

to you. During the course of the new year you will undoubtedly experience times of rising and times of falling as the Prophet Simeon foretold. The goal

is to keep pushing ahead one day at a time. Please remember: 'Time is the Lord's gift to you, what you do with it is your gift to Him.'

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## **Food for your Journey**

On New Year's Eve 1913, a shot rang out. A boy was playing with a pistol, and he was taken by police and put into a house of correction, called "The Colored Waifs Home for Boys."

His behavior there was so difficult that the director, one Peter Davis, decided to try quieting him by handing him a trumpet. Exchanging the metal of the revolver for the metal of the instrument, 12-year-old Louis Armstrong coaxes from the trumpet the first notes of a legendary career.

The world is awash in talent but most of it will languish if we do not provide chances for people to prove their gifts. The Torah is an education in the potential of human beings. Moses was a runaway shepherd with a speech impediment, Ruth a lonely widow from another country, David the youngest and seemingly least promising of his brothers. But seeing possibilities is one way of showing faith.

--David Wolpe, "Louis Armstrong: Horn of Plenty," The Jewish Week, July 14, 2015. [thejewishweek.com](http://thejewishweek.com). Retrieved September 28, 2016.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, As I prepare to cross over into the new year, help me to keep my focus on You. May all of my efforts this coming year bring You glory. Amen.