

# STRANGER THINGS

**Episode Seven**  
**The Savior of Simeon's Swan Song**

**welcome to long beach alliance church**  
**october 23, 2016**



**FRANCE TEAM**

**Fundraiser Luncheon**  
**Sunday, November 6**  
**Following 2<sup>nd</sup> Service**

**Free Lunch**  
**Find out how to**  
**join us in prayer &**  
**support**

**Toulouse**

## The Next 50 Update

LBAC's Facility Renovation Fund





# Climate Survey Results

& JOIN THE ELDERS NEXT SUNDAY @ 12:15PM TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS AND DETAILS OF THE EARLY-2016 LBAC CLIMATE SURVEY! &

## AWANA FAMILY CAMP NOVEMBER 4-6

San Clemente State Beach

Cost: \$12/person - (\$60/family maximum)  
plus one bundle of wood!

JOIN US FOR HOT DOGS,  
SMORES, GAMES,  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST,  
BOOK TIME, AND MORE!

MORE INFORMATION?  
CONTACT EINAR RICHTER  
EINAR\_90808@GMAIL.COM  
562.706.7586

## LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Budget	Required	Received	Budget %
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$6,400.53	52.3%
Month-to-Date:	\$36,709.11	\$29,531.86	80.4%
Year-to-Date:	\$85,654.59	\$79,108.27	92.4%
Disbursed YTD: \$73,853.49		GOF Balance: \$5,875.62	

## LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

### Sunday, October 23

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Foundations Adult Class
- 10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 6:00PM Perspectives

### Monday, October 24

- 7:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

### Tuesday, October 25

- 7:00PM Elder Board Meeting
- 7:00PM High School Youth Group

### Wednesday, October 26

- 6:30PM AWANA

### Thursday, October 27

- 7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

### Friday, October 28

- 6:00PM Youth Great Pumpkin Hunt
- 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

### Sunday, October 30

- 9:00AM Worship Celebration 1
- 10:00AM Mind the Gap (Courtyard)
- 10:45AM Foundations Adult Class
- 10:45AM Foundations Youth Meeting
- 10:45AM Worship Celebration 2
- 12:30PM Elders' Climate Survey Results
- 6:00PM Perspectives

### MISSIONS

<http://www.lbac.org/missions>

Join us for Perspectives & Serving the World!

### GROWTH GROUPS

<http://www.lbac.org/gg>

Mid-week Bible Studies for all Adults

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/children>

Sunday Mornings

Gospel Project @ 9:00AM & 10:45AM

### AWANA

<http://www.lbac.org/awana>

Wednesdays in September 6:30PM-8:30PM

### YOUTH MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/youth>

JH & HS Foundations ~ Sundays @ 9:00AM

HS Core Groups ~ Tuesdays @ 7:00PM

JH Core Groups ~ Thursdays @ 7:00PM

### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/women>

Woman To Woman Mentoring

Contact: sherylynnelbac@gmail.com

Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: robbi@apabrandu.com

Women Connecting with Missions

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 7:00PM

Crafty Women

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month @ 10:00AM

### MEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/men>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

Weekly Schedule



THE  
ALLIANCE

## long beach alliance church offices

3331 palo verde avenue • long beach, ca • 90808-4113  
phone: 562.420.1478 • office@lbac.org • www.lbac.org  
www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch  
church office hours: tuesday-friday, 12NOON-5:00PM

### church staff team

michelle crammer, office manager  
ext. 1000 • michelle@lbac.org

kelly douglas, missions coordinator  
kelly@lbac.org

jesse duckett, youth pastor  
ext. 1005 • jesse@lbac.org

chris lankford, lead pastor  
ext. 1001 • chris@lbac.org

tina rand, receptionist & treasurer  
ext. 1006 • tina@lbac.org

matt swaney, family ministry pastor  
ext. 1003 • matt@lbac.org

scott trickett, associate pastor  
ext. 1002 • scott@lbac.org

Regular Ministry Schedule & Contacts

# STRANGER THINGS

Episode Seven: The Savior of Simeon's Swan Song  
Long Beach Alliance Church • October 23, 2016 • Jack Littlefield, Guest Speaker

- The godly parents, faithful to the Law, 2:22-24, 39-40
- The godly prophetess, devoted to the Lord, 2:36-38

## 1) *The Child is salvation for all people* (Luke 2:29-32; 3:6)

- A) He is the light of revelation to the Gentiles, Luke 2:31-32a; Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Acts 13:47; Luke 3:6; 24:47; Acts 1:8; 26:16-28, 23; 28:28.
- B) He is the glory of God's people Israel, Luke 2:32b; Isa 60:1-22, especially 60:1-2, 19-20.C

## 2) *The Child is a sign to be rejected* (Luke 2:34-35)

- A) He can cause your rise or fall, Luke 2:34b; Isaiah 8:13 -15; 28:16; Psalm 118:22; Romans 9:32-33; 1 Peter 2:6-8; Luke 20:7-18.
- B) He meets with rejection, Luke 2:34c-35a; Luke Chapters 4-21, 22-23; Acts Chapters 4-28.
- C) He reveals your true thoughts, Luke 2:35b; 5:21-22; 6:8; 8:17; 1 Corinthians 4:5.

## 3) *The Child is a Savior for you to believe in, despite all obstacles*

- Know the "certainty" of those things you have been taught about Jesus, Luke 1:4

A) In spite of delay, Luke 1:5-25 and 2:25-35

B) In spite of circumstances, Luke 1:26-56

C) In spite of how God does amazing things through humble people and things, Luke 2:8-20

D) In spite of Jesus' crucifixion, Luke Chapters 22-23

E) In spite of Jesus' rejection by most Jewish people, Acts Chapters 4-13 and 28

F) In spite of Jesus' rejection by most Gentile people, Acts Chapters 14-19

G) In spite of the persecution and suffering that God's people endure, Acts Chapters 4-28

## CONCLUSION:

Jesus can be your consolation, 2:25

He can be your Christ, your Messiah, 2:26

He can be your salvation, 2:30

He can be your light of revelation, 2:32a

He can be your glory, 2:32b

He is appointed for your fall, or rise, 2:34

He will reveal the thoughts of your heart, 2:35

How will you respond to Him?



# **Growth Group Guide Week 7 • Luke 2:22-40**

## **Stranger Things: How to Conquer the Universe**

### **Ice Breaker**

- What places are high on your “bucket list” to visit?

Does the trip LBAC is planning to Israel in early 2018 interest you?

2. Verses 34-35: Simeon ends on a bit of a downer. What is his message to Mary, and in what ways did it come true?

Speaking of downers... while Luke mostly sticks to the joyous side of Christmas, Matthew doesn't. Read Matthew 2:7-23.

### **In-Depth**

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

Discuss what you learned from this week's sermon.

1. Verse 22-24: There are two different acts going on at the temple, one for Jesus and one for Mary.

A. Read Exodus 13:11-15, Numbers 3:12-13 and Numbers 18:15-16. Why was Jesus presented at the temple? In what way did he need to be redeemed?

B. Read Leviticus 12:1-8. Why was Mary at the temple? What did her offering tell us about Joseph and Mary?

3. This is the first of Satan's attempts to destroy God's plan for his Messiah. What are some others, and how did they turn out?

### **Making It Relevant**

1. Despite Satan's attempts, the will of God cannot be thwarted. So like Simeon (and Mary and Zechariah) we can have confidence in His word. Which promises of God provide you with comfort?
2. Over to past weeks we've studied 5 hymns of praise to God (angels, Elizabeth, Mary, Zechariah, Simeon). What did they teach you about praise?

## BONUS SECTION #1

### *Womankind: How Did Jesus Relate to Women in the Gospels?*

- The woman at the well, John 4:3-42
- The widow of Nain, Luke 7:11-17
- The unnamed sinful woman, Luke 7:36-50
- The timid woman who touched His garment, Mark 5:25-34
- Mary and Martha, Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-44
- The woman with a bent back, Luke 13:10-17
- The Canaanite woman, Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30
- Martha's sister Mary again, John 12:2-11; Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9
- The widow who had an offering, Luke 21:1-4
- The weeping women of Jerusalem, Luke 23:27-31
- His mom, Luke 2:41-52; Mark 3:31-35; John 2:1-11; 19:26-27
- Mary Magdalene, Luke 8:2; John 20:11-18
- Who were the first witnesses of the resurrection? Luke 24:1-11
- See also Mark 1:30-31; Luke 8:1-3; 18:1-8; 23:55-56; John 8:1-11
- Can you think of others?

## BONUS SECTION #2

### *Trusting God's Word in the Birth Narrative of Luke 1-2*

<u>Passage</u>	<u>God is fulfilling Old Testament Promise to Israel</u>	<u>God's Promise to individual</u>	<u>Individual Response</u>	<u>Verses on Believing God's Word</u>
<b>Zechariah</b> 1:5-25, 57-80	1:67-79	1:13-17	Bad, 1:18, 20 Good, 1:63-64	"...you did not believe <b>My words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time.</b> " 1:20
<b>Mary</b> 1:26-56	1:46-55	1:31-33, 35-37	1:38, 39-40, 48-49	"...may it be done to me, <b>according to your word.</b> " 1:38
<b>Shepherds</b> 2:8-20	2:10-11	2:12	2:15-20	"... they made known the statement <b>which had been told them</b> about this child" 2:17; "... <b>just as had been told them.</b> " 2:20
<b>Simeon</b> 2:25-35	2:29-32 (compare 2:26	2:26	2:27-30	"...according to Your word." 2:29

## BONUS SECTION #3

### Themes Characteristic of Luke's Gospel (and Acts)

(Themes prominent in Luke 4:14-30  
are in **bold type**)

<b>Outcasts</b>	<i>Praise</i>	<i>Jesus as "Lord"</i>
<b>Gentiles</b>	<i>Joy</i>	<b>Jesus as "Son of God"</b>
<i>Samaritans</i>	<i>Possessions</i>	<b>The Word of God</b>
<b>Women</b>	<b>Grace</b>	<i>Discipleship servanthood</i>
<b>* The Poor</b>	<b>Forgiveness</b>	<b>Persecution &amp; suffering</b>
<b>The Holy Spirit</b>	<i>Repentance</i>	<b>Jerusalem as the key city</b>
<i>Angels</i>	<i>Faith</i>	
<i>Prayer</i>	<i>Peace</i>	<b>* use of the word "today"</b>
<b>Witness</b>	<i>The Church</i>	

<b>The universal offer of the message of Jesus to all peoples</b>	<b>Miracles as the sign that the Age of Messiah is come</b>
<i>Christianity as non-subversive, not a threat to Jewish people or the Roman Empire; a tendency to defend Christianity from criticism</i>	<b>Salvation, coming from God through Jesus Christ</b>
<b>God's purpose achieved in spite of intense opposition</b>	<b>The Kingdom of God: begun, but not fully realized</b>
<b>The religion of the Jewish people as the cradle of Christianity</b>	<i>The Church remaining in the world as Jesus' Second Coming is delayed (present in Acts, but not as prominent as in Luke)</i>

#### The Purpose of Luke's Gospel

To *STRENGTHEN FAITH* in the *LORD Jesus* as the One through whom God has provided *SALVATION* for *ALL PEOPLE*, as proven by Jesus' *WORDS* and *WORKS*.

See also **Elizabeth** in 1:45: "...and **blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her** by the Lord."

**Jack Littlefield** teaches English in a public charter school in Santa Ana. A graduate of Talbot Theological Seminary, he served as a senior pastor for over 20 years, and as a missionary in West Africa for three. You can contact Jack by emailing him at [littlefieldjack@yahoo.com](mailto:littlefieldjack@yahoo.com).