



## Incarnation 2012

### Jesus & Simeon & Anna

After His birth, Jesus was named according to Gabriel's command and after eight days Jesus was circumcised. 40 days later, after Mary's purification according to the law they took the infant Messiah to the Temple to be dedicated. They were too poor to afford a 'lamb' so they brought a pair of young birds for the sacrifice. (See John 2:21-24)

**Introduction:** Imagine, the Messiah—King of Kings to throne of David enters the Temple as an infant. Jesus would come to the Temple on several occasions and on two rebuke those who had made the House of God a market place.

#### A. Simeon *vv. 25-35* He who listens—the hearer!

1. **Authenticates the Messiah's coming:** Both Simeon and Anna serve as witnesses to the coming of the 'Comfort' or 'Consolation' of Israel.
2. **Simeon and the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is 'upon him,' 'reveals things to him,' and 'leads' him. The Spirit revealed a specific purpose for Simeon before he would die.
3. **Holding the Messiah:** *v. 28* As Simeon took Jesus into his arms so Jesus desires that we take Him into our hearts.  
 "...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Ro 8:9-10
4. **Simeon's prophetic message for all:** *vv. 29-32*  
 -It's all according to God's Word  
 -I have seen the promised Messiah with my own eyes  
 -This Light/salvation is for all people
5. **Simeon's prophetic message for Mary** *vv. 34-35*  
 -Your Son will be loved by some hated by others  
 -Even though you are blessed—you will have much sorrow  
 See Luke 12:49-53 regarding divided families

#### B. Anna *vv. 36-38* She who brings Grace—Heb. Hanna

1. **God uses seniors:** Zacharias and Elizabeth were in their late 80's or early 90's, Simeon was likely in his early 90's and Anna was at least 103 years old. So is God still using seniors to accomplish His purpose and plan? Has He been using you?
2. **God uses young people:** Mary was a very young teenager!
3. **God uses dedicated people:** *v. 37* Anna either lived at the Temple or very near it and she was there everyday—day and night. She 'served' God by living a life of prayer and fasting.
4. **At the right moment:** *v. 38* Could it be that there is a connection to the faith and commitment of both Simeon and Anna—that they both 'came at the right moment'?

*What is your expectation of Jesus in your life?  
 Are you ready for God to use you—no matter your age?  
 Are you committed to the Word, prayer and fasting?  
 Are you willing to go "in an instant"?*

#### Luke 2:25-38 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.  
<sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, <sup>28</sup> he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;  
<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation  
<sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,  
 And the glory of Your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against <sup>35</sup> (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; <sup>37</sup> and this woman *was* a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.  
<sup>38</sup> And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.