

“WAITING ON CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS”

“When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”,²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

³³ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, His mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.” - Luke 2:22-38

One story that’s not as familiar in the Christmas story is that of Simeon and Anna, who prayed and waited for the coming of God’s Messiah, Jesus. There are eight simple lessons here:

1. Those who look for Jesus find Him.

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.”
- Luke 2:25

2. God’s promises come before God’s provision.

“It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.”
- Luke 2:26

3. Those who walk in the Spirit know Him when they see Him.

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“Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.”
- Luke 2:27

4. Until we see Jesus, we’re not ready to die.

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation...”
- Luke 2:29,30

5. God’s performance is greater than His promise.

“My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”
- Luke 2:30-32

6. Simeon and Anna saw Jesus in the Temple.

“Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.”
- Luke 2:27

“[Anna] never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.”
- Luke 2:37

7. Once you see Jesus, you want to share Him with others.

“Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.”
- Luke 2:38

8. Never Give Up Hope!

“[Anna] was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.”
- Luke 2:36,37

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