

## **Anna**

Deuteronomy 30:1-16; Luke 2:36-40 / Galatians 4:1-11

### **I. Anna Was a Prophetess**

A. Scripture designates Anna as a prophetess. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; (Luke 2:36)

1. Scripture defines genuine widows. Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. (1 Timothy 5:5)

2. God claims such people for Himself and uses them to identify genuine believers. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)

B. Anna served in a distinguished line of women who taught the mind of God. And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. (Exodus 15:20) along with And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. (Judges 4:4)

C. Without one of these prophetesses, Scripture would have been lost, the church left unreformed, and hope of eternity erased. So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asahiah, went unto Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college;) and they communed with her. (2 Kings 22:14) Those who want to meet God should look for Him in His house.

D. Neither was Anna the last prophetess. And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. (Acts 21:8-9) Philip was a deacon but his daughters were prophetesses.

E. Anna's office was no more hindered by her age than her gender. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; (Psalm 92:14)

F. The power of God is the Word, not the messenger. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

## **II. Anna Had Begun to Live in Eternity**

A. God made a promise to His people and He always keeps His promises. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever. (Psalm 23:6)

B. Anna took God at His word. And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. (Luke 2:37) along with One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. (Psalm 27:4)

C. To be present in God's house to praise Him is a great calling, far beyond the world's rewards. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. (Psalm 84:10) along with Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD. Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God, (Psalm 135:1-2)

D. One of eternity's great rewards when all accounts are settled is to stand beside Anna. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. (Revelation 3:12)

## **III. God Uses Those Who Wait in Faith**

A. Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Anna rather than the religious authorities of the state and culture. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. (Luke 2:38)

B. Jesus' first trip to Jerusalem begins as His last will end, with a woman declaring the mighty acts of God to those who looked for redemption in

Jerusalem. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her. (John 20:18)

C. Like Simeon and Anna, Jesus waited for Heaven's time. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. (Luke 2:39-40)

D. All people who have seen the Consolation of Israel have a message. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. (Isaiah 40:2)