



January 11, 2026

Title: "Anna"

Scripture: Luke 2:36-39

Deuteronomy 19:15

15 "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

- This verse states that a single witness is insufficient to convict someone of a crime
- A charge must be established by two or three witnesses
- Jesus's birth has two to three witnesses as evidence he is the Messiah, God in human flesh
 1. Mary and Joseph
 2. Simeon
 3. Anna (who we will study today)

Luke 2:36-37

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years

from when she was a virgin, 37 and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

Who is Anna (or Hannah — her name means “grace”)?

- A prophetess (who speaks forth God’s truth) like:
 1. Miriam in **Exodus 15**
 2. Deborah in **Judges 4**
 3. Huldah in **2 Kings 22** (advising King Josiah)
 4. An unnamed prophetess (maybe Isaiah’s wife?) in **Isaiah 8:3**
 5. Philip’s four unmarried daughters in **Acts 21**
 6. Now Anna in **Luke 2:36-38**

- She is the daughter of Phanuel (he must have been a great daddy to produce this daughter)
- From the tribe of Asher (one of the 10 lost tribes of Israel captured by Assyria in 722 B.C.)
- She was advanced in years
- She was married as a virgin (the virtue of chastity exemplified in her life)
- She was married for seven years and became a widow
- And was a widow until 84 years of age when we meet her here
- Or older (perhaps she was married at 13, had seven years of marriage, then a widow for another 84 years which equals 104 years of age)
- **Older people:** I challenge you not to retire — but refire! Find your ministry in your golden years! God can and still wants to use you!
- She did not depart from the temple — day and night going there (an apartment in the temple?)
- What was she doing day and night?
 1. Worshiping God
 2. Praying to God
 3. Fasting for God’s guidance through worship and prayer

Matthew 17:21

21 But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting

- The power of prayer and fasting
- Some demonic powers and huge problems can only be overcome with fasting
- MOHC's present season of fasting
- Like Simeon, Anna was praying and fasting to see the Messiah
- She was part of that small remnant in Israel who loved God
- And she knew that their righteousness was only by faith, not works of the Law

Luke 2:38

38 And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

- "And coming up at that very hour..." indicates:
 - God's perfect timing — she saw Simeon take the baby Jesus in his arms
 - She probably heard his prophecy over Jesus and Mary (last week):
 1. That Jesus was God's "salvation" (Jesus's name means Savior)
 2. For "all peoples" — Jew and Gentile alike are saved solely through the name of Jesus
 3. How Jesus was appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel — some would accept him and others reject him as Savior
 4. How Mary's soul would be pierced at the cross when he died for the sins of the world
 5. And the thoughts of many hearts would be revealed — at the Judgment, nothing would be hidden
- When Anna heard this from Simeon, she:
 1. Began to give thanks to God (all those years of waiting now answered)
 2. Began to speak to all about Jesus calling him the redemption of Jerusalem
- Jesus came for the redemption of people
- And the redemption of Jerusalem
- The importance of the redemption of Israel and Jerusalem now and in the future

May we all have Anna's:

1. Ability to wait well (George Mueller)
2. Passion for Jesus (prayer and fasting, passionately seeking God)
3. Desire to tell others about Jesus

Luke 2:39

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

- Joseph and Mary performed everything according to the Law of the Lord
- Notice their total devotion to the Lord — the importance of Godly parents!
- They returned to Nazareth in Galilee — to their homes

You may be asking, “Isn’t there something missing? Aren’t there some more important characters at the cradle?”

If you asked this, you are correct! Who is missing in the story? What about the Magi? The Wise Men?

Their story is found in Matthew’s gospel. We will go there next week to study the... **Final Characters at the Cradle**

Baptism Sunday

The meaning of baptism:

1. Death to self (under the water)
2. Your new resurrection life in Jesus (out of the water)
3. Your public profession to passionately follow Jesus

Time of Prayer