

Simeon and Anna Luke 2:25-40

Main Idea: A character study of Simeon and Anna and what we can learn from them.

v25-27 The 'consolation of Israel' is the time when the Messiah was to come and the promised salvation he would bring. The Holy Spirit had promised to Simeon that 'he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ'. Simeon was a 'righteous and devout' man, who would have spent a considerable time praying to God. Simeon would have spent time in the scriptures, time at the temple and he had the Holy Spirit. Simeon is expectant that the Messiah will come as this has been promised to him by the Holy Spirit. He is faithfully waiting and patient for God to work in his time. He fully believes in the promise that God has given him; this in a time when Israel was in disarray. The spiritual leadership was mainly corrupt.

"Notwithstanding the general low spiritual condition of the Jewish people at that time there were nevertheless (as always) genuinely pious and upright ones who served God faithfully." Geldenhuys, *The Gospel of Luke*

Has God promised something to you that has not been fulfilled yet?
Has he put a desire in your heart that you know is from him?

We are not told how long Simeon has had to wait for the promise. However, when God promises something, it will take place in his time.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5,6

Bill's testimony

Are you expectant to experience God when you come to church/in your spiritual life?
How hungry/thirsty are you for the things of God this morning?
Do you desire to seek his face?

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
Matthew 5:6

"The key to a new movement of the Spirit of God will not be in a new technique, but in the 'old' paths of Gospel proclamation, earnest prayer, and yearning for the Spirit." J.D. Greear,

v28 Simeon praises God for his faithfulness to his promise. This is an occasion of joy. His patience has been rewarded in that he gets to hold the Lord's Christ in his hands - what an honor!

How do you feel when the Lord has fulfilled a particular promise to you?

v36-38 Anna was a prophetess. This meant that she was used by God to give revelations to his people. Other examples of female prophets are Deborah, (Judges 4:4), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14) and Philip's daughters (Acts 21:9).

The text tells us that after 7 years of marriage she became a widow and then she devoted her life to the Lord until her present age of 84. This would mean that she has faithfully served God on her own for approximately 60 years!

We see in Anna's life a wonderful example of a Christian woman who is sold out for God. 'She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.' Anna clearly loved God with all her heart, soul and mind. She has a thankful, joyful attitude and is hungry for things of God (v38). Anna delights in fellowshiping with people and loves being at the temple. Like Simeon, Anna is spiritually hungry for the things of God.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.” Acts 2:42-47

How is your Christian life this morning?
How is your bible reading, your prayer life?
Do you enjoy fellowshiping with God's people?

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24,25

Are you challenged or encouraged by the witness of Simeon and Anna?
What are you 'devoted' to?
What is getting in the way of you and your Savior?

What we learn about Jesus from these verses:

v25-27 **Jesus is the Messiah**, God's chosen one, “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”), Matthew 1:23

v29 Jesus is **the fulfillment of God's promises** in the Old Testament, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6,7

v30 Jesus is the **Savior of the world**, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11

v32 Jesus is the **light of the world**, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

v34,35 Jesus is the **divider**, "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." Luke 2:34,35 (John 3:18).

v38 Jesus is the **redeemer**, "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." 1 Peter 1:18,19

v40 Jesus is filled with **God's wisdom**, "Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!" Romans 11:33

Jesus is filled with the **grace of God**, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14

As Christians what we learn from Simeon and Anna:

v25 'Righteous' i.e. live a holy life to be right with God.

'Devout' i.e. be devoted to God.

v25 Filled with the Holy Spirit.

v28,37,38 Be active in prayer.

25,38 Hungry for the things of God.

25,38 Look forward to the return of Christ.

v38 Live freely because you are redeemed.

v27,37 Faithful in church attendance.

27,37 Love to fellowship with God's people.

v39 Listen to the Lord's word and apply it.

v33, 38 Share our faith in God.

v41 Live in the grace of God.