

GRACE WHILE YOU WAIT

Pastor George M. Dupree – 12/14/2008

The World Awaits The Messiah - Luke 2:21-40

Simeon was waiting for the coming of the Messiah. Simeon means hearing and he was waiting for a sound from heaven. He heard it in the cry of the baby being circumcised.

1. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel vs. 22
2. The Holy Spirit was upon him vs. 22
3. The Holy Spirit had spoken to him that he would not see death until he saw the Lord's Christ vs. 26
4. He came to the temple led by the Spirit vs. 27
5. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God vs. 28
6. For my eyes have seen your salvation vs. 30

Simeon was in the Holy Spirit. That's how he could hear the cry of the baby above all the noise of the temple. He had a hearing ear.

When Mary and Joseph came into the temple Simeon was waiting, when he sees them he takes the child in his arms and the Lord spoke through him to Joseph and Mary concerning Jesus.

He spoke a threefold prophecy.

1. Jesus would be a **LIGHT** to the gentiles and the glory of the Lord to Israel vs. 32
 - a. He would bring **SALVATION** to the lost.
 - b. He would bring **REVELATION** to the church.

This is the two-phased purpose of the church. We preach the good news and share the revelation of God's love.

2. Jesus would be the **STANDARD** by which high things, proud and pompous religion, would be brought down, and low things, spiritually empty and hungry people, would be brought up. And that He would be spoken against. He would get the religious people mad. vs. 34
3. The sword would pierce through Mary's soul. Speaking to Mary, who is the Mother or bearer of Christ, is like speaking to the church. We are now the bearers of Christ. The sword will pierce through the church; the world system will always hate the church. vs. 35

Anna comes up to them at that very moment vs. 38

The moment Simeon spoke these words Anna comes on the scene. Anna was over 100 years old and she spent most of her life in the

temple. Anna was the daughter of **PHANUEL** which means **FACE OF GOD** of God. She was of the tribe of **ASHER** which means **HAPPY**. When Moses was blessing the tribes he said of Asher that "Asher is most blessed of sons; let him be favored by his brothers and let him dip his foot in oil, therefore he would walk in anointing. When we walk in the anointing we are **HAPPY**. And "his sandals shall be of iron and bronze, and as your days, so shall your strength be." Asher would be **ANOINTED** and **STAND STRONG**. Anna was anointed and she stood strong.

The moment that Simeon completed the prophecy Anna appears.

Anna is the Greek name for Hannah, which means **GRACE**. So, **GRACE** came instantly after Mary was told that her Son would have to die for the redemption of mankind.

The number 5 is representative of grace. When Joshua was giving the land to the tribes Asher was the fifth to get its land. When God promised Abraham he would have children God told him to make an altar and put five things on it. Five things representing the Grace Abraham would need to wait for his promise.

You Need Grace While You Wait

Grace exemplifies the Fullness of Christ –

1. Wonderful
2. Counselor
3. Mighty God
4. Everlasting Father
5. Prince of Peace

Grace is the free gift of God and it is the enabling power of God for our lives.

God said to Paul. "My Grace is sufficient for you."

Luke 2:40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and ***the grace of God was upon him.***

His grace is always sufficient. When trouble comes look for Anna, look for His grace.