

Anna

## Luke features women

- a. 7: widow of Nain; sinful woman
- b. 8: supported Jesus
- c. 13: woman with spirit of infirmity 18 yrs.
- d. 15: lost / found silver coin
- e. 18: widow and judge
- f. 21: widow with two mites
- g. 23: Daughters of Jerusalem mourn
- h. 24: Mary Magdalene and others

## Luke 2:36-38, three verses

- *Anna*, Greek for *Hannah*
- Anna praises God for Jesus, just as Hannah praised God for Samuel
  - Both were <sup>1</sup>tried, <sup>2</sup>heard, and <sup>3</sup>blessed
    - Rachel, Gn.30:1
- Context: Simeon's message (27-35)
- Anna, 36-38 – of Asher: 2<sup>nd</sup> son of Zilpah. Ac.26:7; Ja.1:1
- The happiest widow?

# I. Prophetess, 36

## Simeon (v.25)

- Prophetess: in NT only here and Rv.2:20
- Prophecy has now revived after a lapse of 300+ years
- In both OT and NT, women received prophetic powers –
  - a. Miriam, Ex.15:20, Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took the timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

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  - b. Deborah, Jg.4:4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. 5 And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

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  - c. Huldah, 2 Chr.34:22 So Hilkiah and those the king had appointed went to Huldah the prophetess . . . (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke to her to that effect . . . 24 ‘Thus says the LORD...’

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  - d. Stephen's daughters, Ac.21:9, Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied



## Anna, the prophetess

- Did not keep her knowledge to herself
- Did not discuss trivial things
- Did not lead people astray

“Rabbis did not approve of the same amount of instruction in Law being given to girls as to boys. They regarded women’s minds as not adapted for such investigations” – Edersheim

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Women were restricted to one area of the Temple – The Women's Court

They could not enter the inner court where the ceremonies were performed

Josephus: women and slaves could not give evidence in court. YET . . .

I. Prophetess, 36

II. Age, 37

- Her age – ‘widow of about 84 years’
  - Widow for 84 years + her age when married + 7 years = about 105?
  - Or: Luke is saying she is 84 years old?
- Her age did not hinder her from serving God. She would be an asset to any congregation ... just by example alone.
  - Old, but not retired from serving God.

She did all the good she could,  
in every way she could, for as many  
as she could, for as long as she could.

I. Prophetess, 36

II. Age, 37

III. Widow, 37

# Widowhood

<sup>1</sup> Some do not cope well. 1 Tim.5:6, 11-14

<sup>2</sup> Others do. 1 Tim.5:5, 10

Sorrow can make us bitter and resentful, or it can make us better, more sympathetic, and increase our faith

- Naomi, Ruth 1:19-21
- Mrs. Job, 2:9
- Anna suffered tragedy and 'long loneliness,' yet turned to God, not from Him
- Praised ... / encouraged ... / good example

I. Prophetess, 36

II. Age, 37

III. Widow, 37

IV. Did Not Depart  
From Temple, 37

# Regular in attendance? Live in Temple quarters itself?

- Lk.24:53, continually in the temple, praising and blessing God
- Ac.2:46, continued daily in the temple...
- Either way, she spent her life in God's house with God's people. Nothing else was as important
- God's temple today: Ep.2:19-21
- What better memory of loved one: '*she was here every time...*'



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V. Served God Daily, 37

## Fasting

- Not as Pharisees (Mt.6). 1 Tim.5:5

## Prayers

- May explain success in spread of gospel.
- “I’m too old to do much.”
- Anna spent her time in prayer, praise, proclamation
- Ja.5:16-18

## Served night and day

- 1 Tim.5:5

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VI. Gave Thanks, 38

# God gives gifts; we give thanks in return

- Anna never stopped worshipping

If Anna was so grateful at hope of Messiah's work in Israel, what attitude should we have now that He has accomplished it?

And how much more gratitude when we get to heaven? Holy expectation!

I. Prophetess, 36

II. Age, 37

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IV. Did not Depart From Temple, 37

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**VII. Spoke of Christ, 38**

# Can an aged person do good in speaking of Christ?

- Look at Anna . . . Simeon

Can a person speak of Him without  
benefit of seminary training?

- Anna . . . Simeon. Jn.1:40...Andrew, Philip
  - *Speak of Him:* to speak again and again
  - *Faith:* she knew this baby would bring redemption of Jerusalem [deliverance of sin through Messiah –Ro.3:24, in Christ].
- Simeon: v.25, consolation of Israel

# Anna confessed God, spoke to people about redemption of Christ

To accomplish this she . . .

1. had to know her OT.
2. had to believe promises of God.  
2 Sm.7; Mic.5, etc.
3. reminded others of promises of God.
4. connected His coming with redemption  
(v.25) – redemption implies . . .

1. Previous  
bondage

2. Cost  
(Jesus)

3. Ownership  
1 Co.6:20

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(v.25) –
5. Anna, one of Lord's first evangelists, lived her life with a spiritual focus. Cf. Hannah.  
John 1:11-12



# Anna could have spent her time in gossip

- 1 Tim.5:13. Contrast Tit.2:3-5
  1. Her character: reverent, (suited to a sacred character – as a priest)
  2. Her behavior rebukes slander, malicious rumors, etc. and replaces it with teaching that is good (3)
- 4-5: most helpful teacher of young married ladies...
- 5: wrong to live in way that slanders gospel

## Simeon and Anna still show . . .

- Faithful Jews were yearning for Messiah. Don't judge all Jews by rulers. 1 K.19:18
- Lk.2:38, Anna continued to return thanks and to speak about Jesus to all who expected Jerusalem's redemption...
- These 'true Jews' celebrated spiritual blessings in very Temple where Pharisees and secular Sadducees were perverting Israel's hope